WILD ADAPTER

9

Rie Takada

TOKYOPOP

WILD

WILD ACT

VOLUME 9

BY RIE TAKADA

TOKYOPOP®

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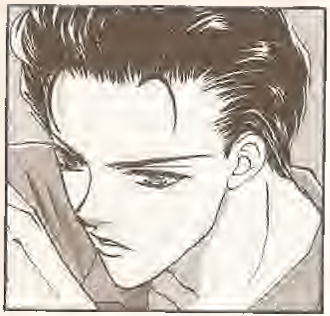
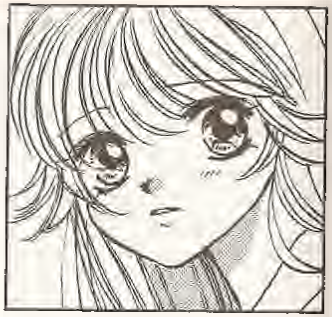
WILD★ACT



Akira Nanae

He was the first Japanese actor ta succeed in Hallywaod. He was killed in a tragic accident at the young age of 25.

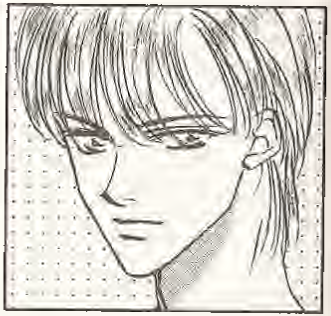


Yuniko Sakuraba

This girl is a Nanae-maniac! She's aut to steal back Akira's persanal possessians from the fanaticol fans that ransacked his belangings after his death.

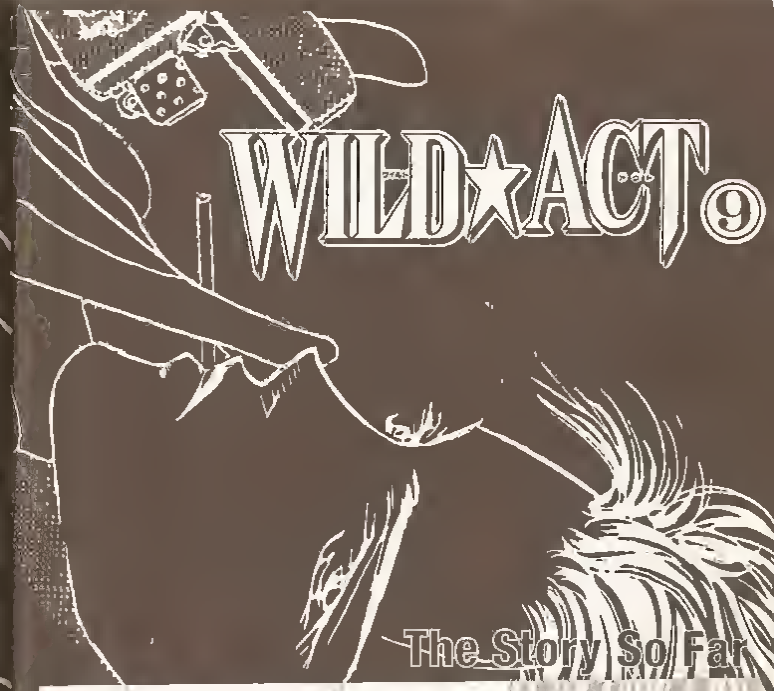
Ryu Eba

He's a papular actor naw, thaugh he's anly 17 years ald. People coll him the "New Nanae," but he hates the camparison.



Ryu Gilliams ("Ryu #2")

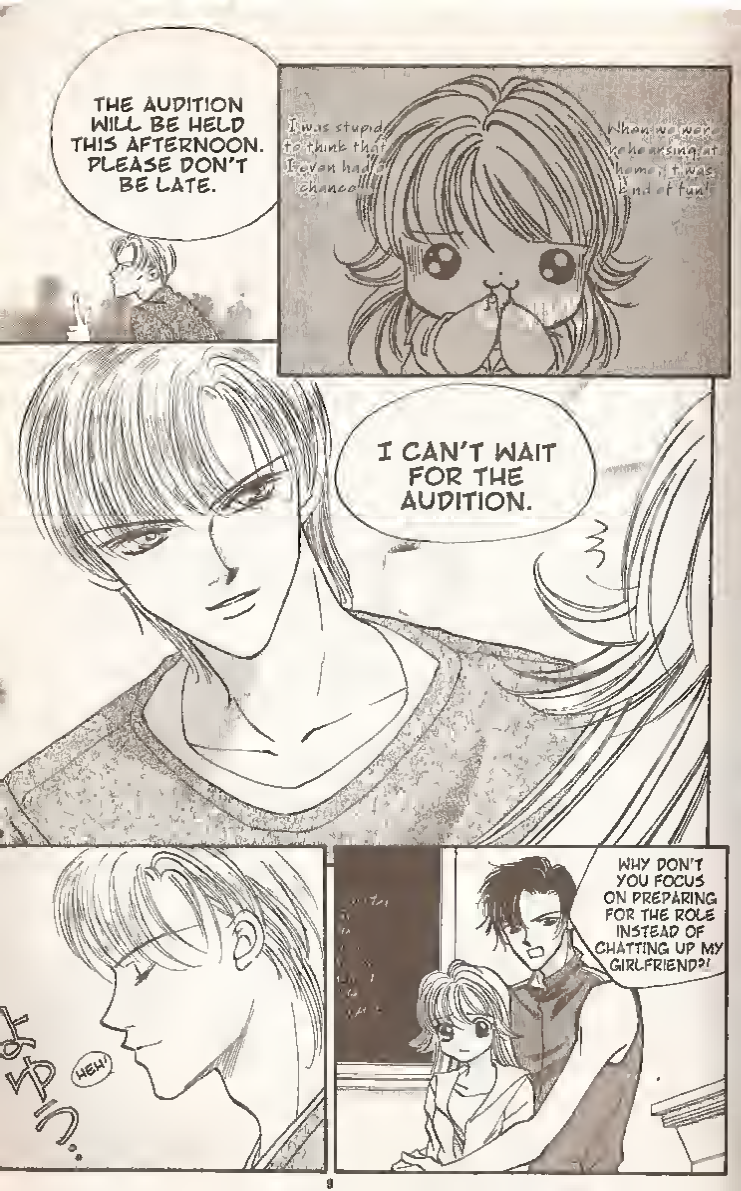
One af the tap students at the Julliana Academy. He believes he is the san af a world-famaus director and actress, wha per ished along with Akira Nanae in a plane accident.



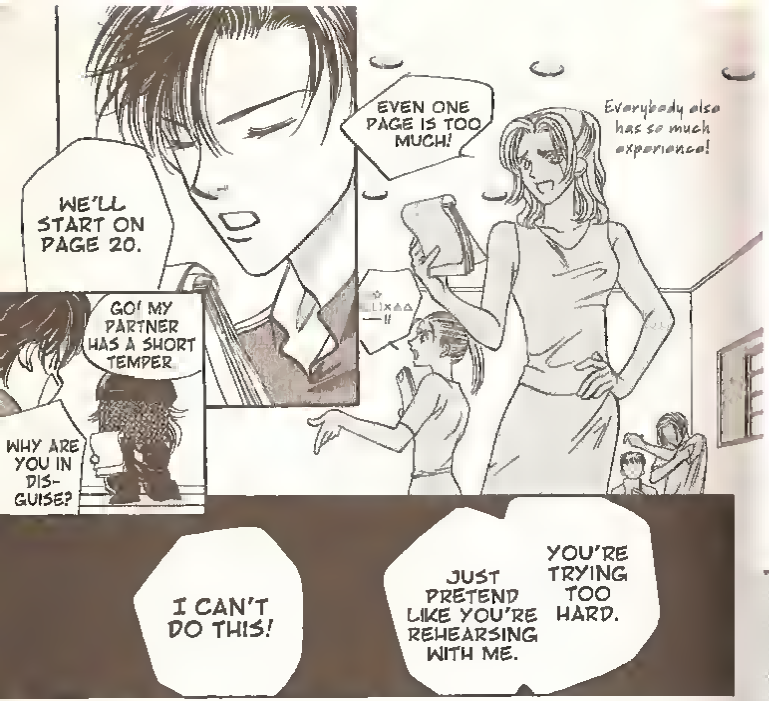
The Story So Far

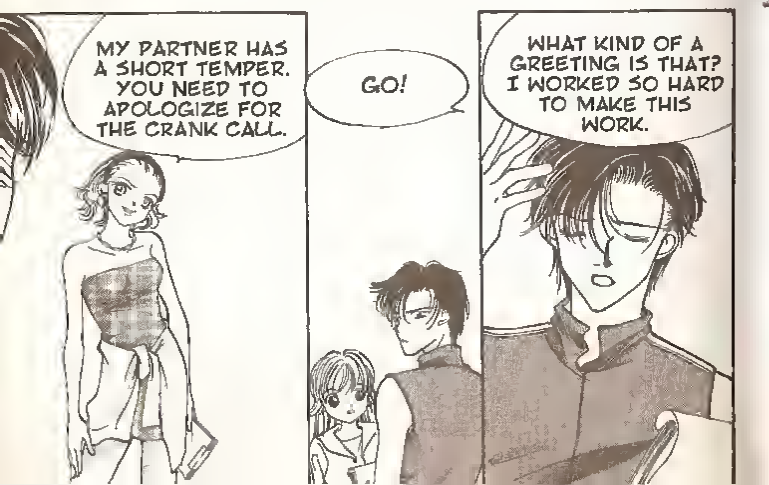
Yuniko Sakuraba is 15 years old. She's a passionate fan of the late actor Akira Nanae, and steals to collect his personal belongings. Her boyfriend, Ryu Eba, is a popular actor.

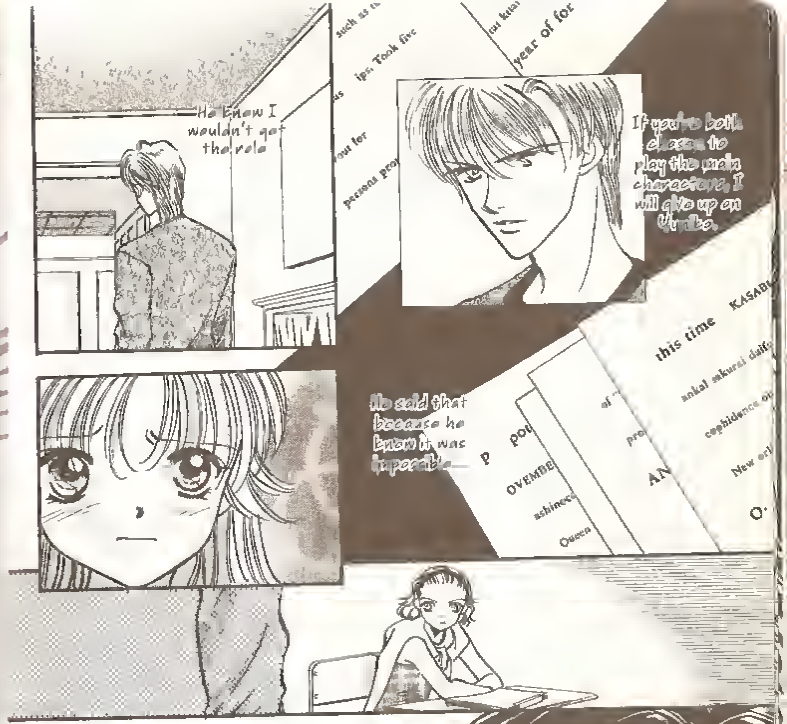
To dispel the rumor that Ryu is her brother, Yuniko decides to start stealing items from her mother's past in order to help her mother regain her memory. Suddenly, Ryu receives an offer from Akira's former agent to represent him in Hollywood. Both Ryu and Yuniko relocate to Hollywood, and begin attending the Julliano Academy of Performing Arts. Soon, Ryu finds a bitter rival when a gorgeous, blande classmate, Ryu #2, canfesses his love far Yunika! Ryu #2 says that he will give up an Yunika if she wins the lead role far the schaal play. Can Yunika study and charm her way into the lead rale...?

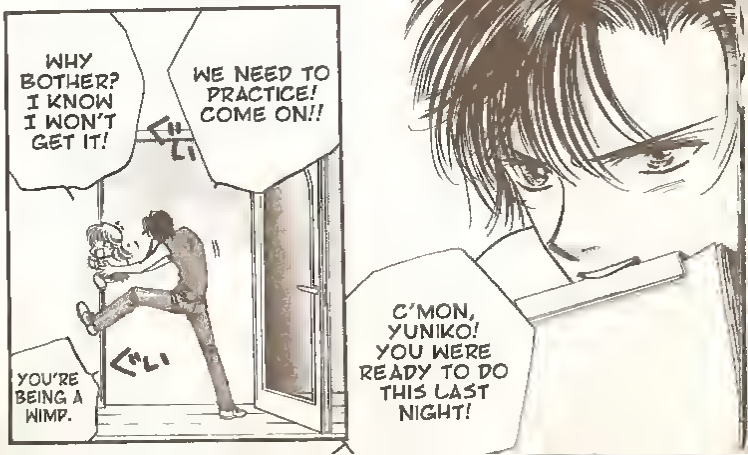

THE AUDITION WILL BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON. PLEASE DON'T BE LATE.
I was stupid to think that I even had a chance!!
When we were rehearsing at home, it was the end of fun!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE AUDITION.
HEH!
WHY DON'T YOU FOCUS ON PREPARING FOR THE ROLE INSTEAD OF CHATTING UP MY GIRLFRIEND?!

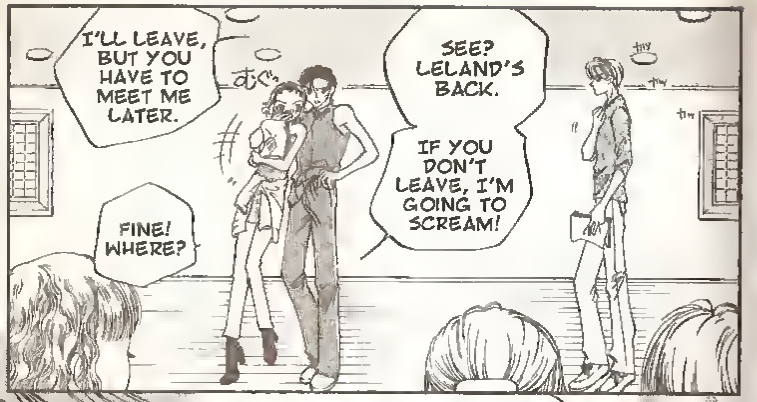
NICOLE
Diana
Janita
Lucy
Maria
Victoria
OH MY GOD!
TONS OF PEOPLE...
...ARE AUDITIONING FOR NICOLE'S ROLE!
DON'T GET INTIMIDATED YUNIKO!
AUDITIONING IS A BATTLE OF CONFIDENCE C'MON! SIGN UP ALREADY.
UH...
I'M SCARED!
I'm gonna get the role!

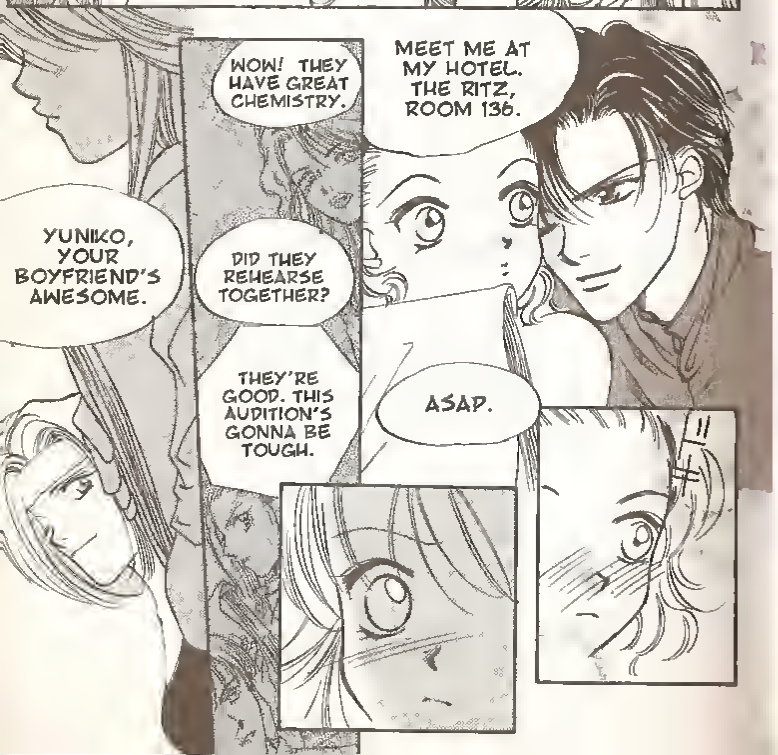

WE'LL START ON PAGE 20.
EVEN ONE PAGE IS TOO MUCH!
Everybody also has so much experience!
GO! MY PARTNER HAS A SHORT TEMPER.
WHY ARE YOU IN DIS-GUISE?
I CAN'T DO THIS!
JUST PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE REHEARSING WITH ME.
YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD.

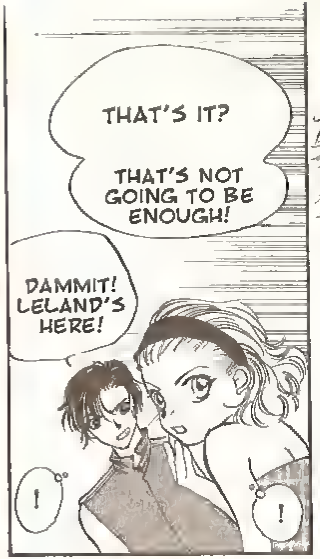

MY PARTNER HAS A SHORT TEMPER. YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE CRANK CALL.
GO!
WHAT KIND OF A GREETING IS THAT? I WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS WORK.

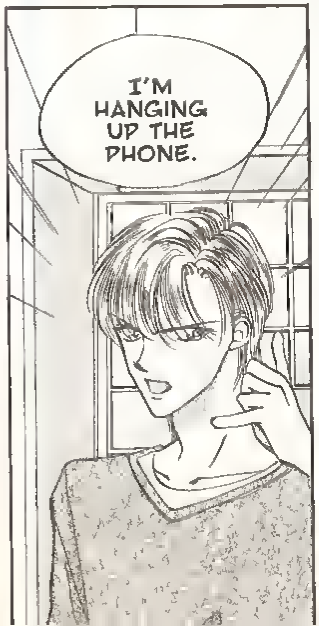

He knew I wouldn't get the role
If you're both chosen to play the main characters, I will give up on the role.
He said that because he knew it was impossible
this time

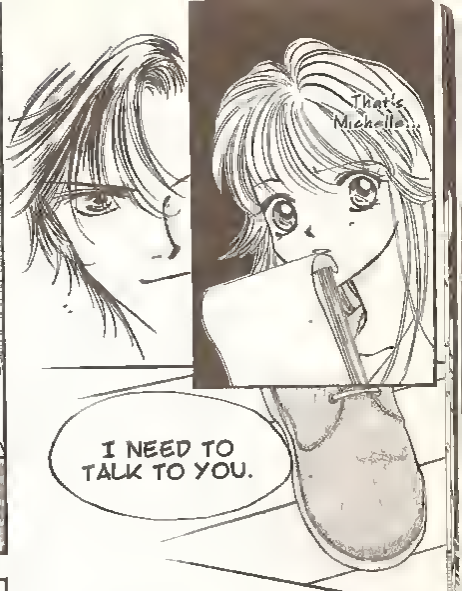

WHY BOTHER? I KNOW I WON'T GET IT!
WE NEED TO PRACTICE! COME ON!!
YOU'RE BEING A WIMP.
C'MON, YUNIKO! YOU WERE READY TO DO THIS LAST NIGHT!

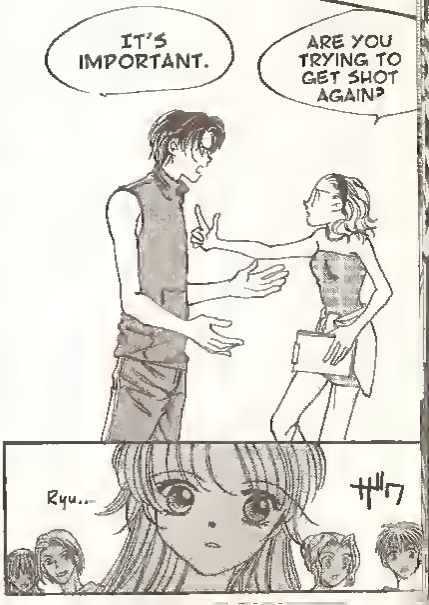

I'LL LEAVE, BUT YOU HAVE TO MEET ME LATER.
SEE? LELAND'S BACK.
IF YOU DON'T LEAVE, I'M GOING TO SCREAM!
FINE! WHERE?

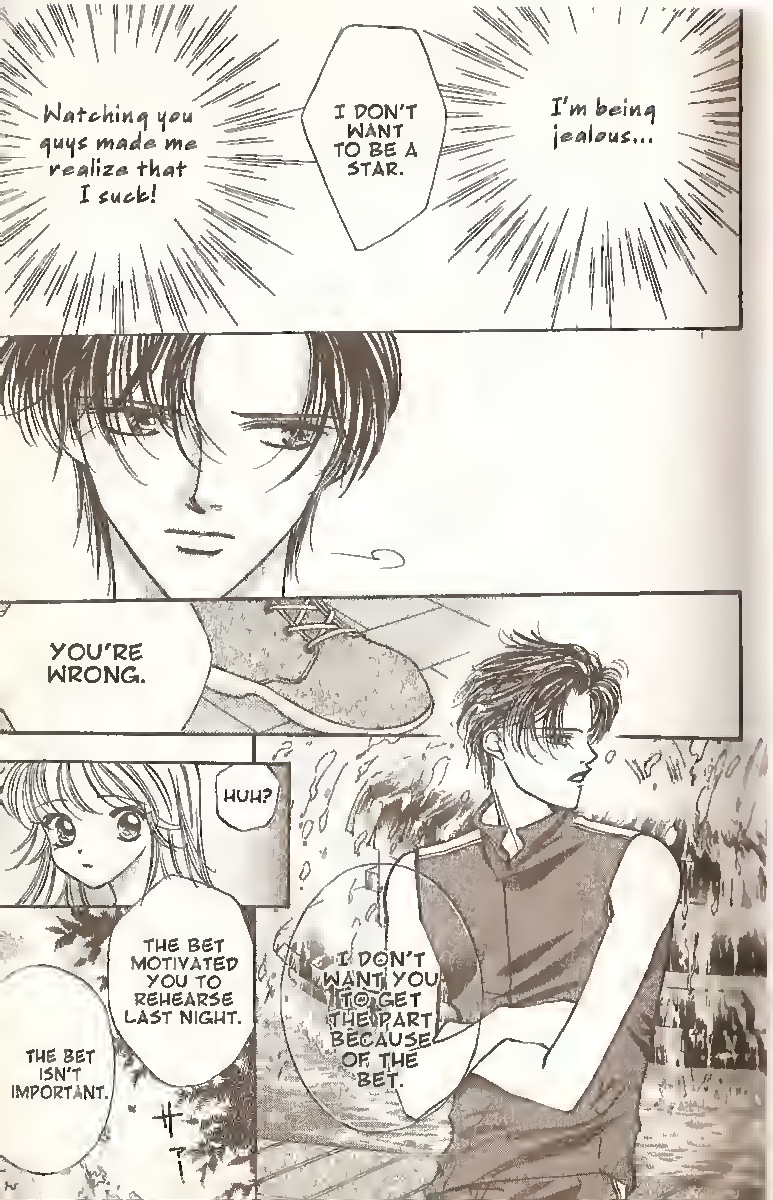

MEET ME AT MY HOTEL. THE RITZ, ROOM 136.
WOW! THEY HAVE GREAT CHEMISTRY.
YUNIKO, YOUR BOYFRIEND'S AWESOME.
DID THEY REHEARSE TOGETHER?
THEY'RE GOOD. THIS AUDITION'S GONNA BE TOUGH.
ASAP.

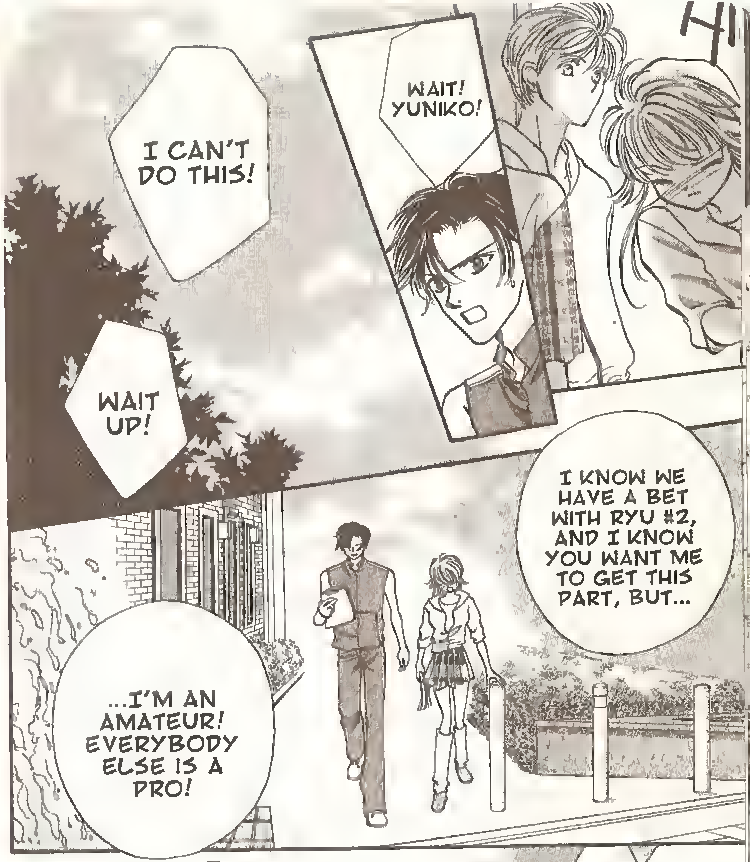

THAT'S IT?
THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH!
DAMMIT! LELAND'S HERE!

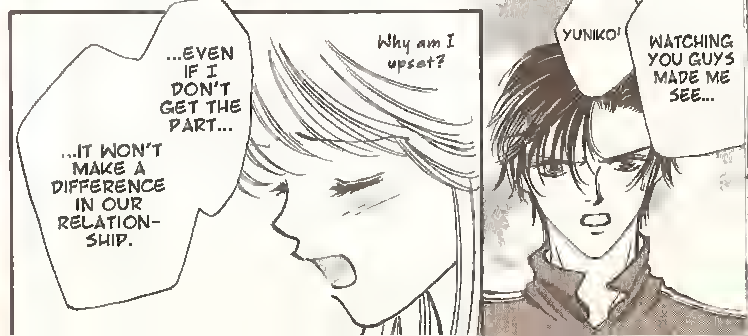

I'M HANGING UP THE PHONE.

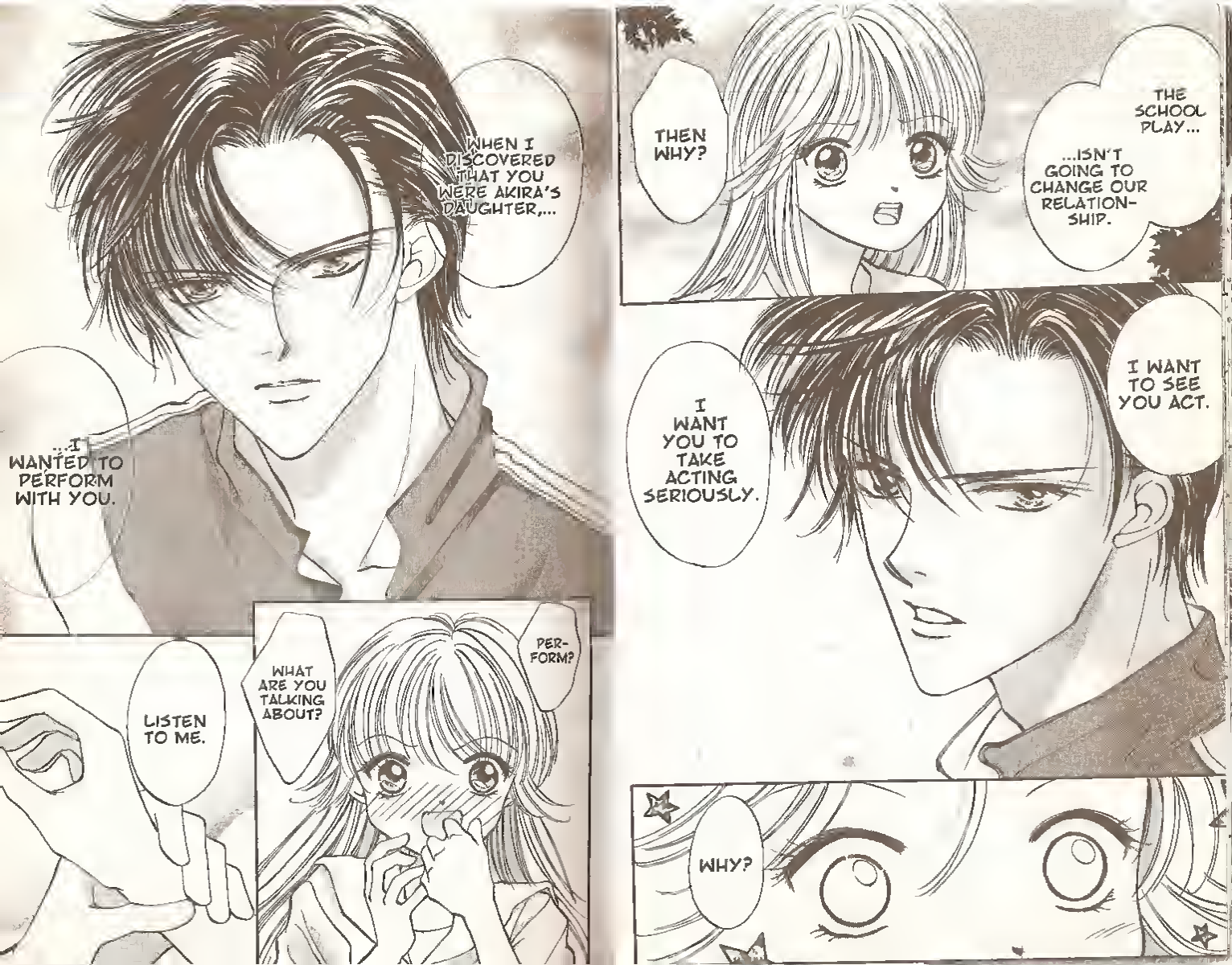

That's Michelle...
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

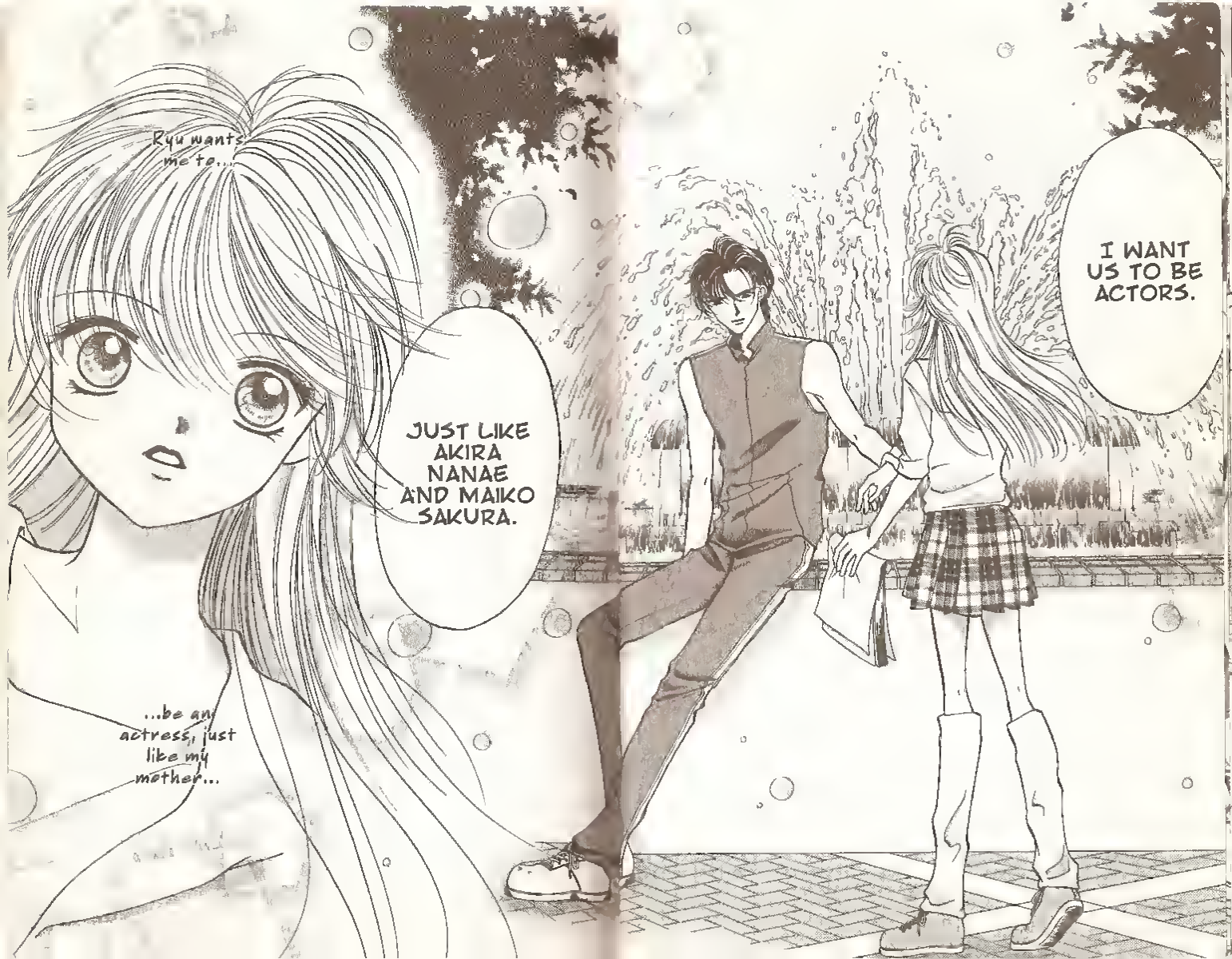

IT'S IMPORTANT.
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET SHOT AGAIN?
Ryu...

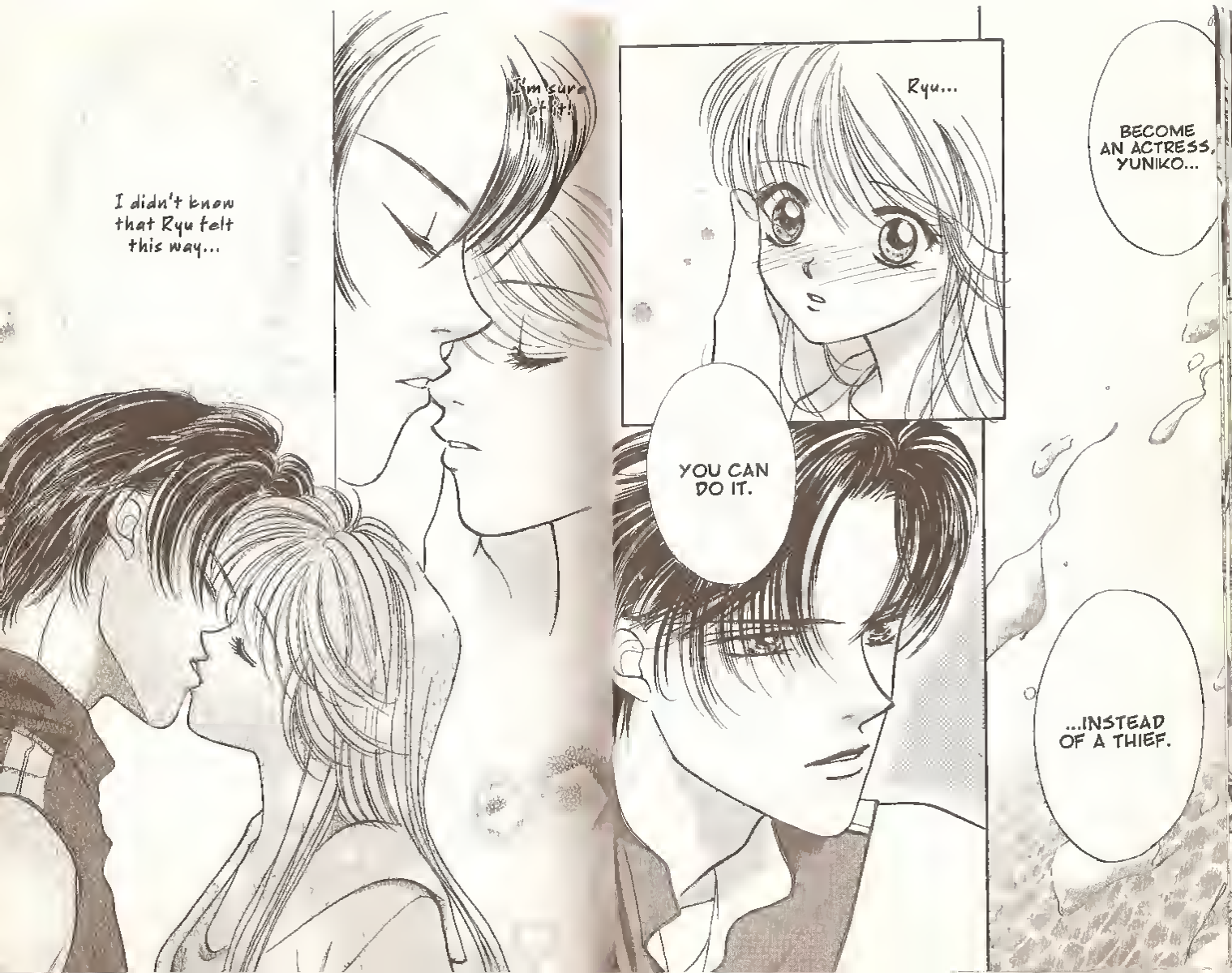

Watching you guys made me realize that I suck!
I DON'T WANT TO BE A STAR.
I'm being jealous...
YOU'RE WRONG.
HUH?
THE BET MOTIVATED YOU TO REHEARSE LAST NIGHT.
THE BET ISN'T IMPORTANT.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET THE PART BECAUSE OF THE BET.

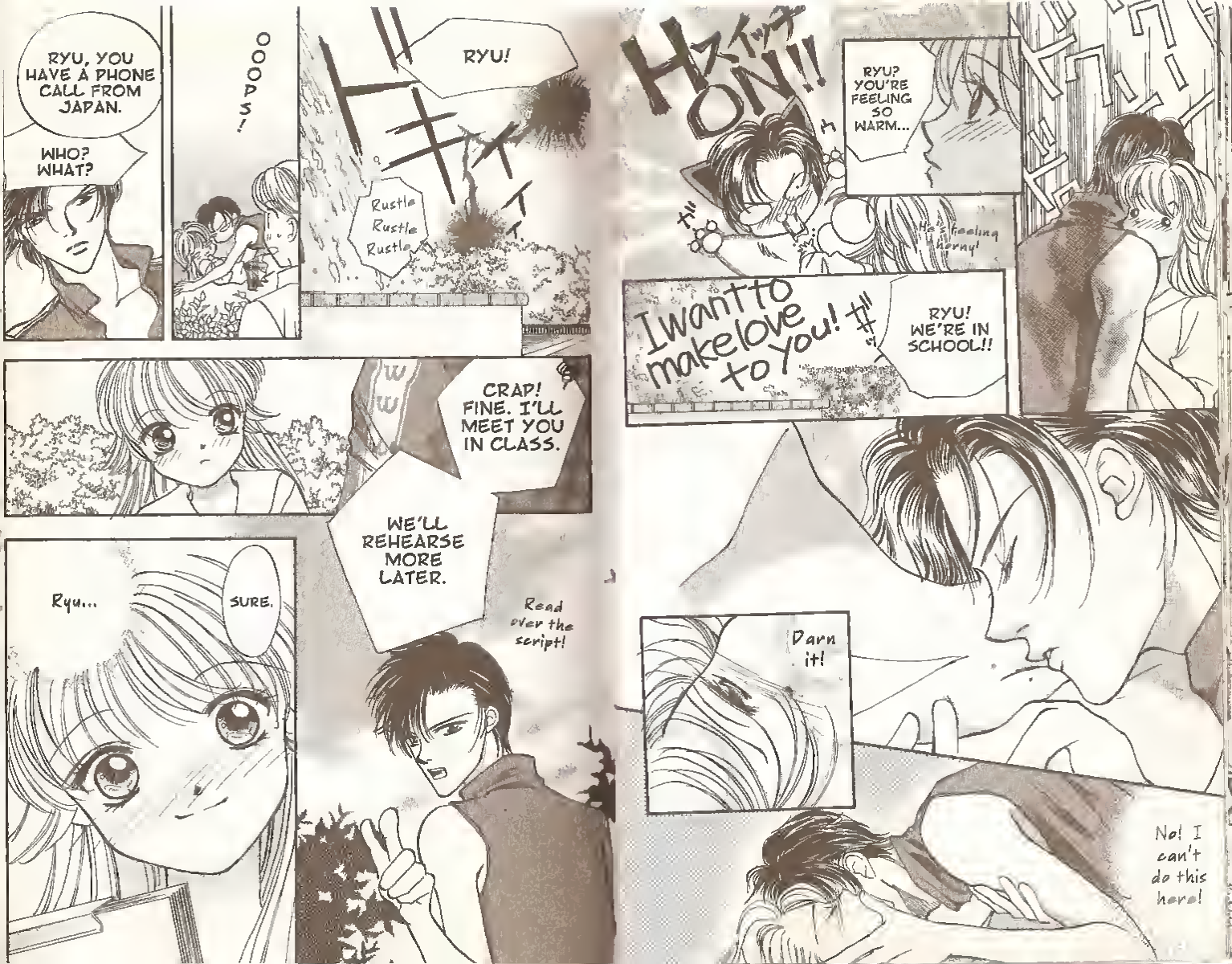

I CAN'T DO THIS!
WAIT UP!
WAIT! YUNIKO!
I KNOW WE HAVE A BET WITH RYU #2, AND I KNOW YOU WANT ME TO GET THIS PART, BUT...
...I'M AN AMATEUR! EVERYBODY ELSE IS A PRO!

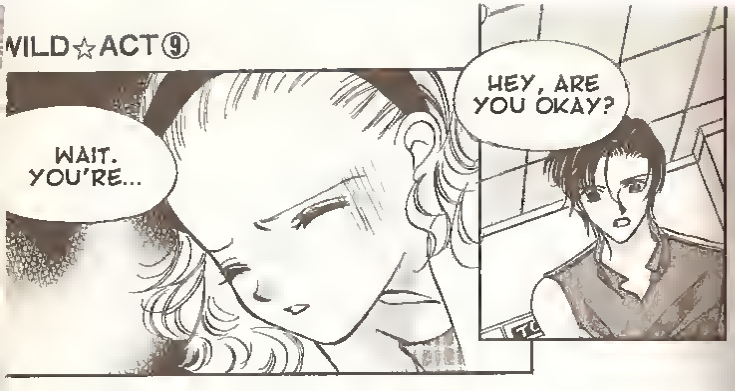

...EVEN IF I DON'T GET THE PART...
...IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.
Why am I upset?
YUNIKO!
WATCHING YOU GUYS MADE ME SEE...


WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT YOU WERE AKIRA'S DAUGHTER,...
...I WANTED TO PERFORM WITH YOU.
LISTEN TO ME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
PER-FORM?
THEN WHY?
THE SCHOOL PLAY...
...ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE OUR RELATION-SHIP.
I WANT YOU TO TAKE ACTING SERIOUSLY.
I WANT TO SEE YOU ACT.
WHY?

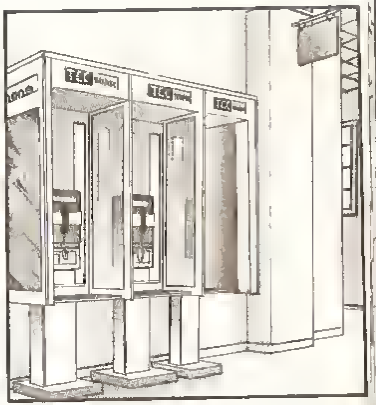

Ryu wants me to...
JUST LIKE AKIRA NANAE AND MAIKO SAKURA.
...be an actress, just like my mother...
I WANT US TO BE ACTORS.


I didn't know that Ryu felt this way...
I'm sure of it.
Ryu...
BECOME AN ACTRESS, YUNIKO...
YOU CAN DO IT.
...INSTEAD OF A THIEF.

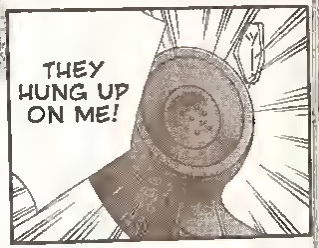

RYU, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM JAPAN.
WHO? WHAT?
OOOPS!
RYU!
Rustle Rustle Rustle
CRAP! FINE. I'LL MEET YOU IN CLASS.
WE'LL REHEARSE MORE LATER.
Read over the script!
Ryu...
SURE.
Hスイッチ ON!!
RYU? YOU'RE FEELING SO WARM...
He's feeling horny!
I want to make love to you!
RYU! WE'RE IN SCHOOL!!
Darn it!
No! I can't do this here!

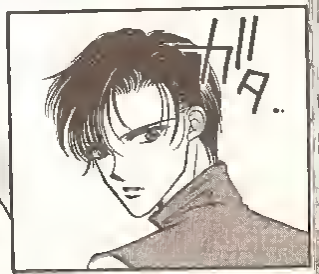

WAIT. YOU'RE...
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?

HELLO? HELLO?
STUD



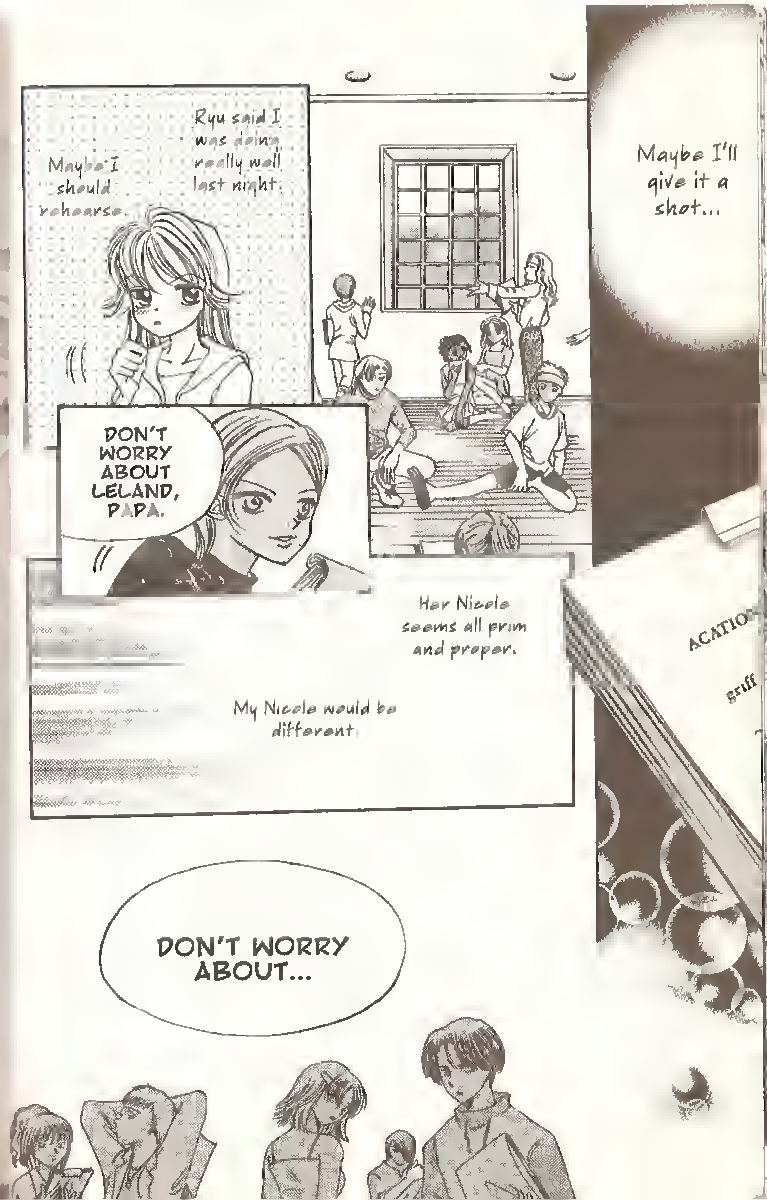
BZZZZ

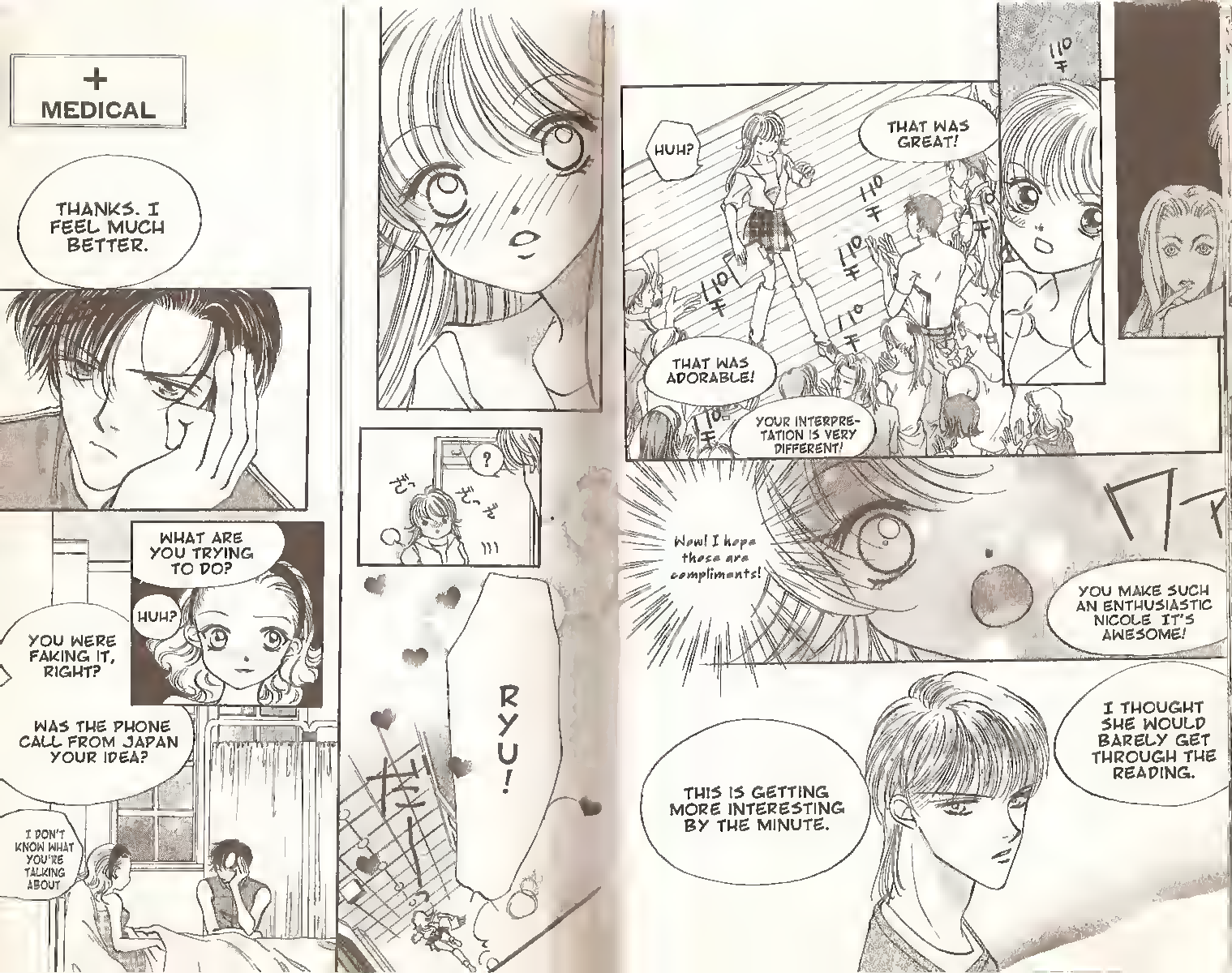

THEY HUNG UP ON ME!

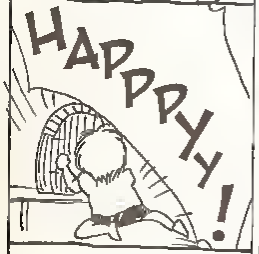

HUH..

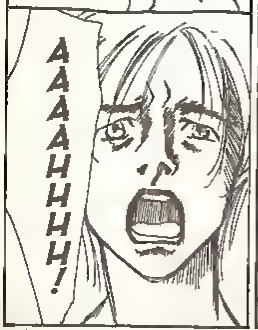
I haven't seen him look that serious in a long time.
Me? An actress?
Can I really do it?
What's wrong with me?
It's not like I was ever interested in acting, but...
...Ryu's words make me happy...

HE COULDN'T TELL A FAKE TO SAVE HIS LIFE...
...LELAND, PAPA!
...!
...WHEN HE BOUGHT CELLINI'S VENUS.
Ha! They're amazed at my bad acting!
WE MET...

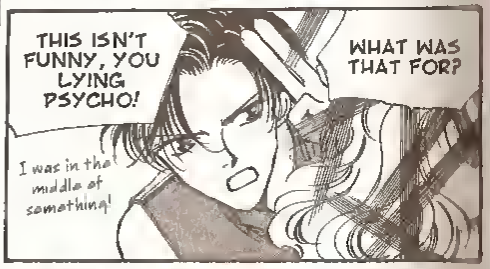

Maybe I should rehearse.
Ryu said I was doing really well last night.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT LELAND, PAPA.
Her Nicole seems all prim and proper.
My Nicole would be different.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT...
Maybe I'll give it a shot...

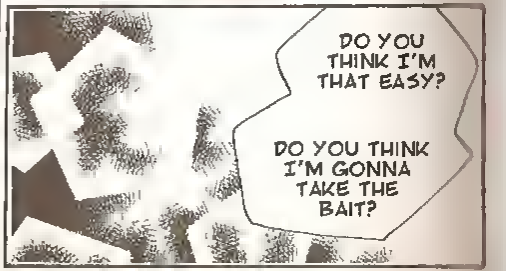

THANKS. I FEEL MUCH BETTER.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
HUH?
YOU WERE FAKING IT, RIGHT?
WAS THE PHONE CALL FROM JAPAN YOUR IDEA?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
?
RYU!
HUH?
THAT WAS GREAT!
THAT WAS ADORABLE!
YOUR INTERPRETATION IS VERY DIFFERENT!
Wow! I hope these are compliments!
YOU MAKE SUCH AN ENTHUSIASTIC NICOLE IT'S AWESOME!
THIS IS GETTING MORE INTERESTING BY THE MINUTE.
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD BARELY GET THROUGH THE READING.

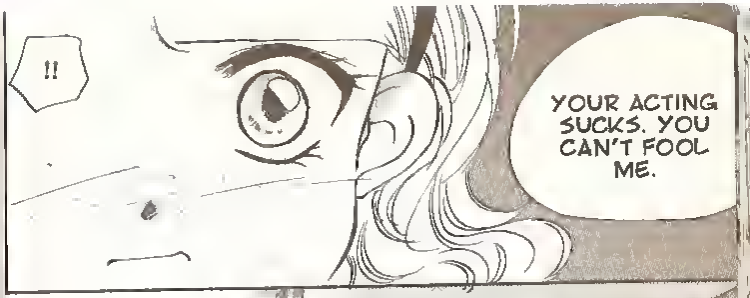


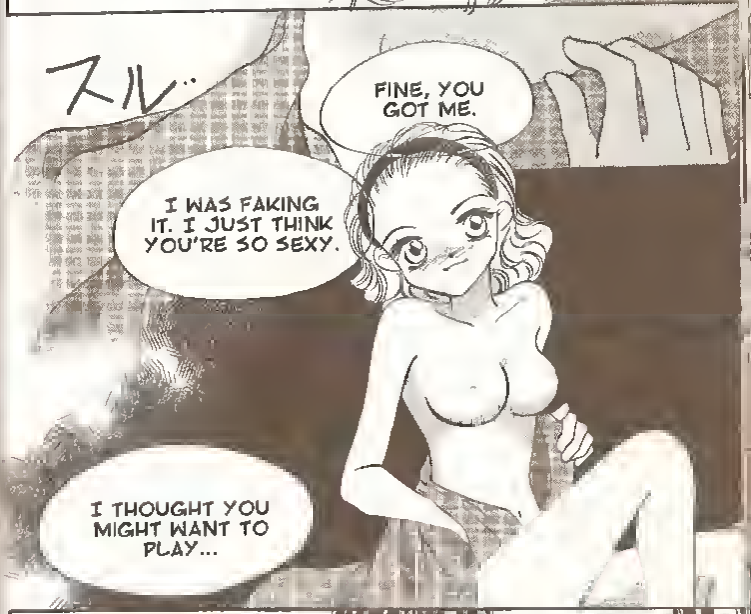


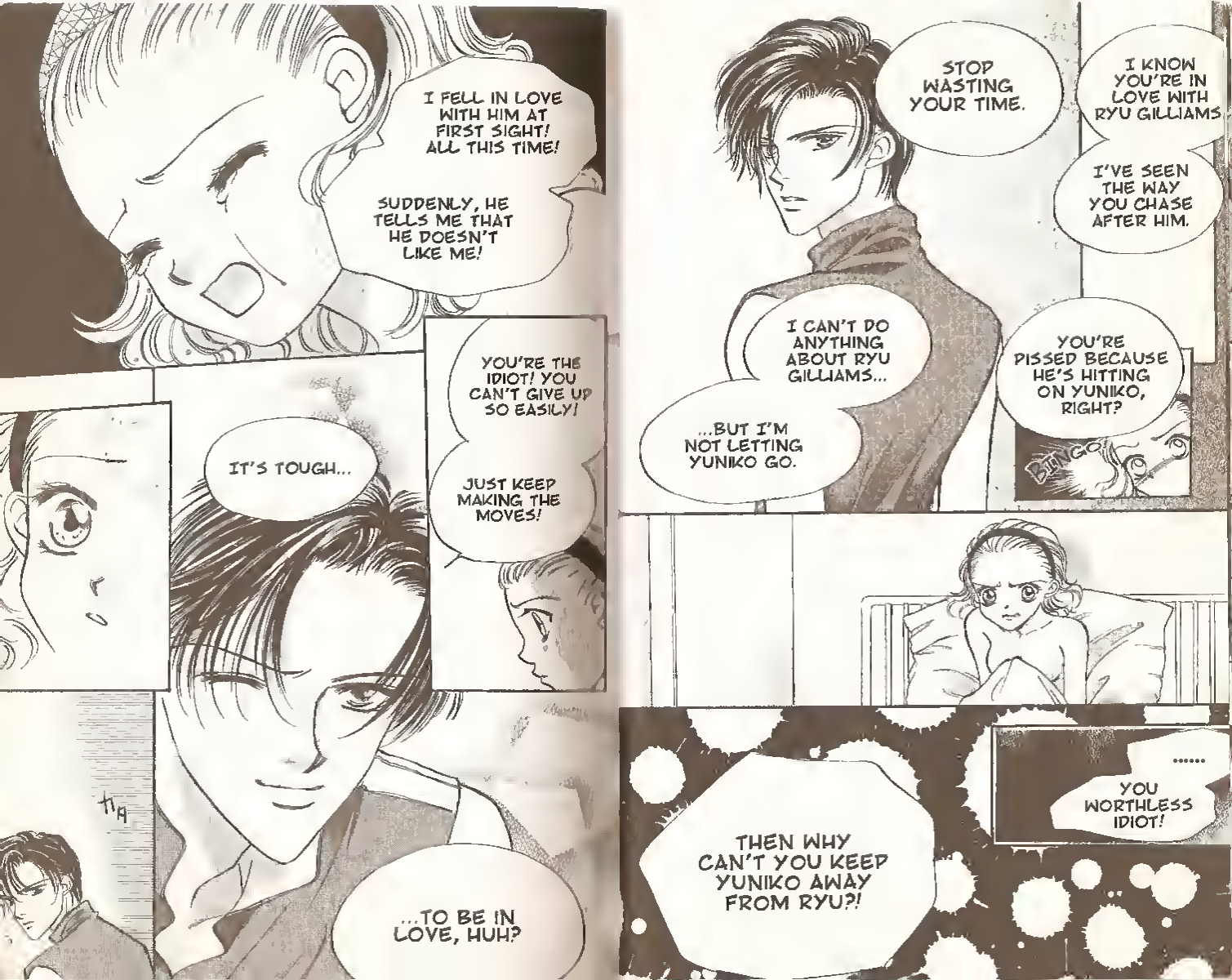
Wild animals are pretty tough...

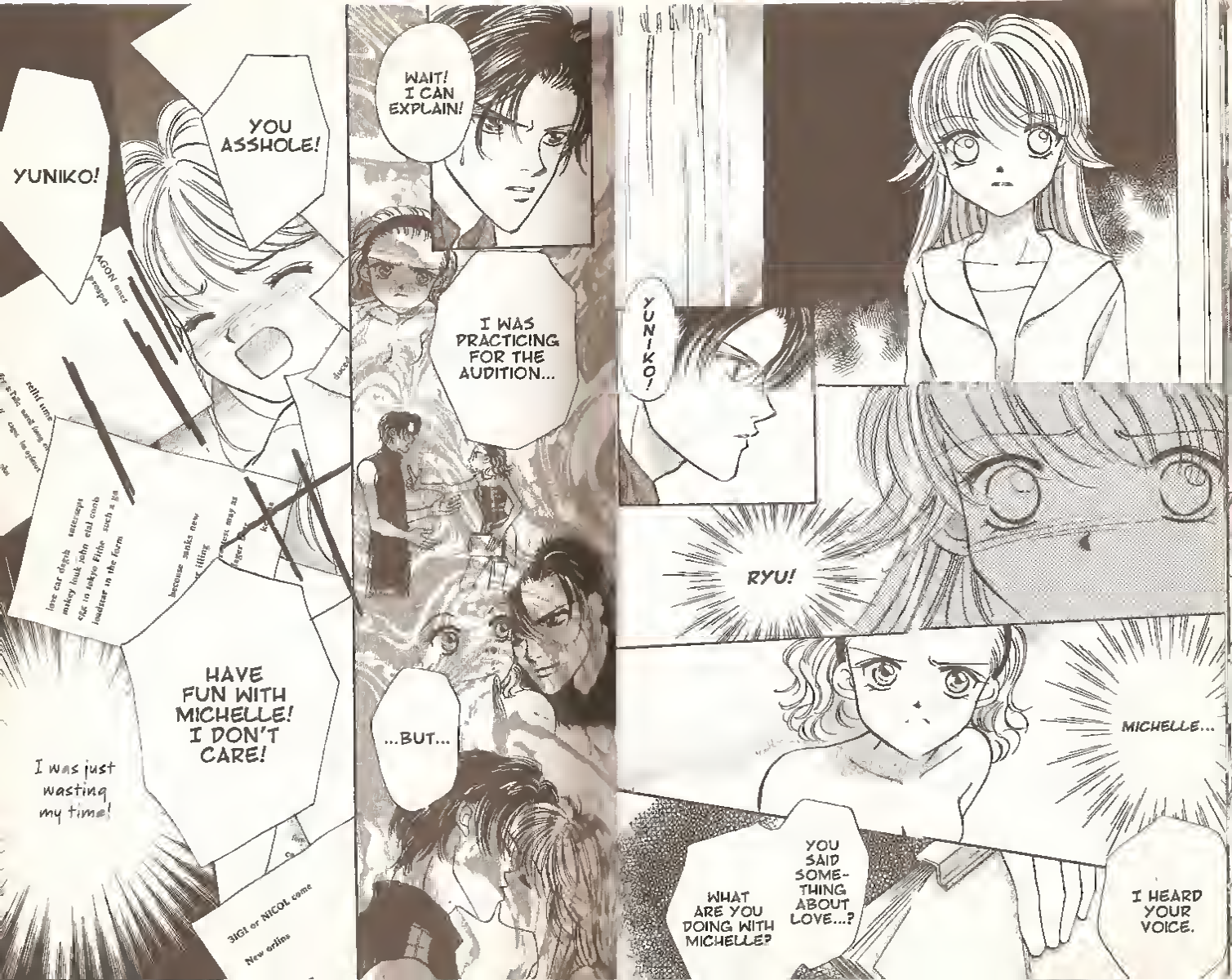


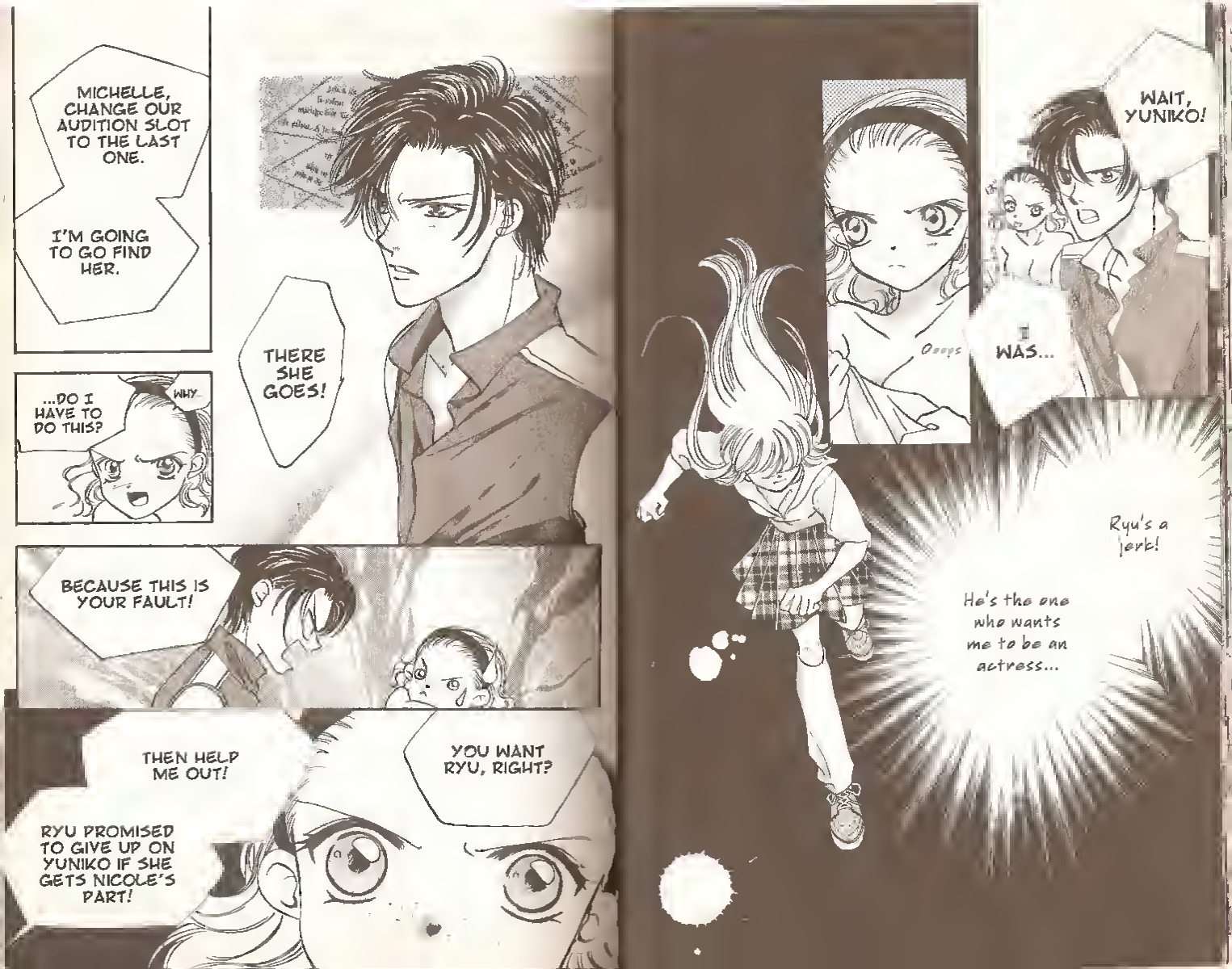


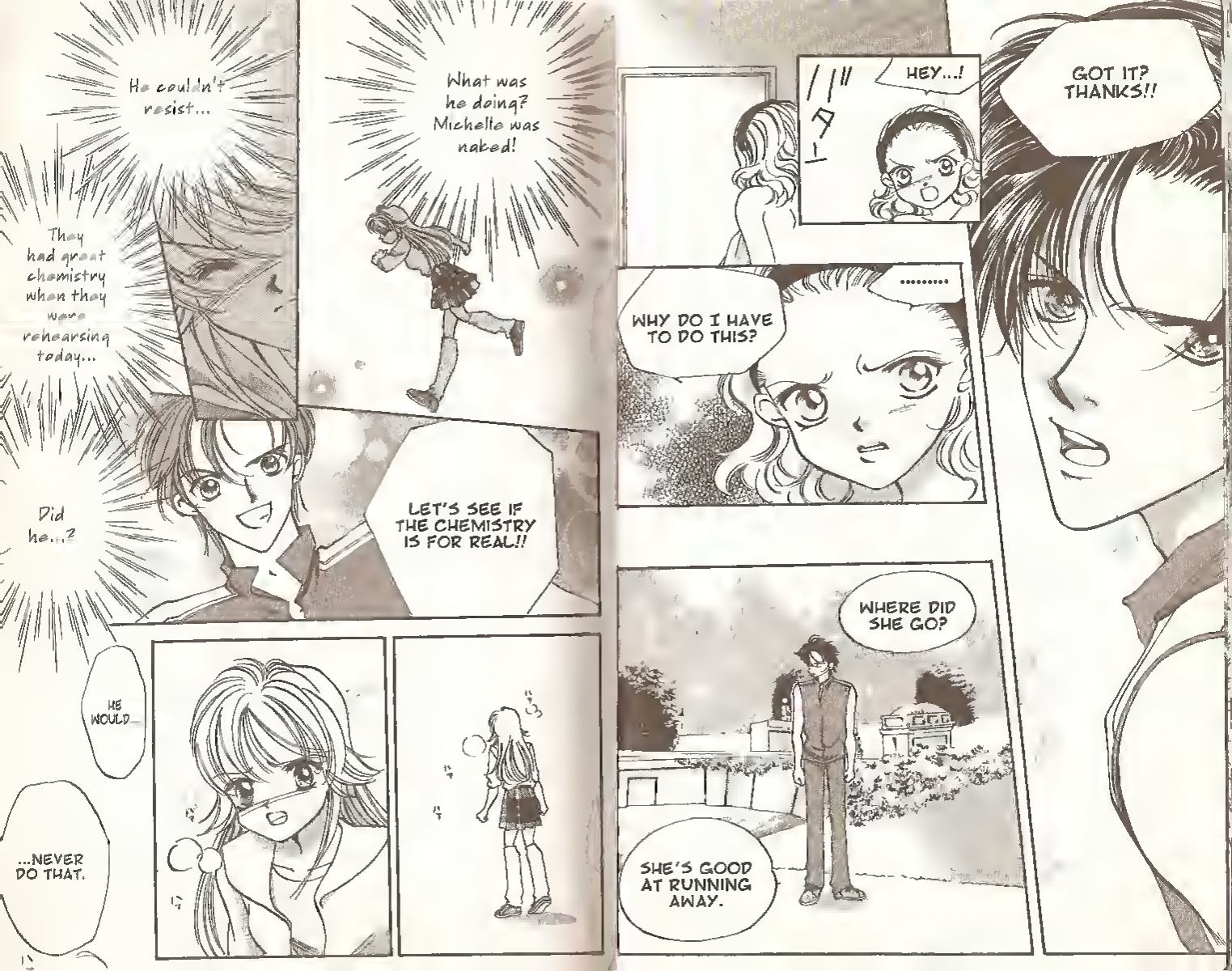


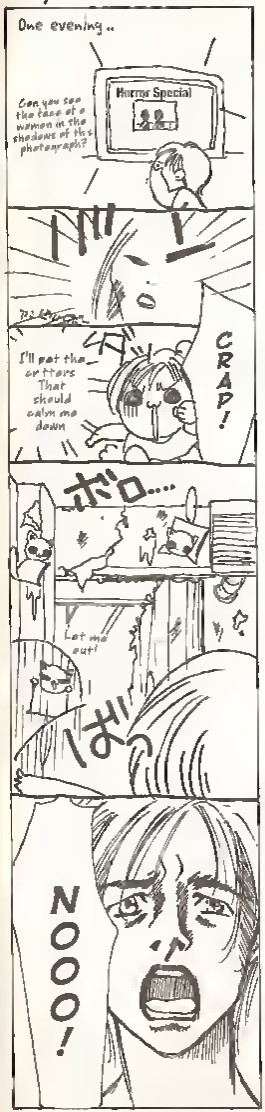


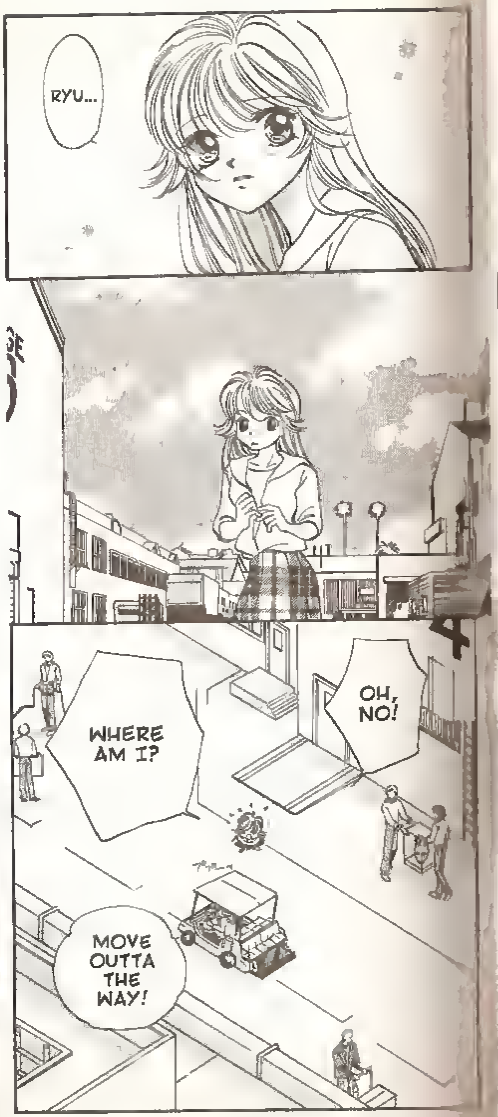

I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM AT FIRST SIGHT! ALL THIS TIME!
SUDDENLY, HE TELLS ME THAT HE DOESN'T LIKE ME!
YOU'RE THE IDIOT! YOU CAN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY!
JUST KEEP MAKING THE MOVES!
IT'S TOUGH...
...TO BE IN LOVE, HUH?
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME.
I KNOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH RYU GILLIAMS
I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU CHASE AFTER HIM.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT RYU GILLIAMS...
...BUT I'M NOT LETTING YUNIKO GO.
YOU'RE PISSED BECAUSE HE'S HITTING ON YUNIKO, RIGHT?
BINGO!
.....
YOU WORTHLESS IDIOT!
THEN WHY CAN'T YOU KEEP YUNIKO AWAY FROM RYU?!

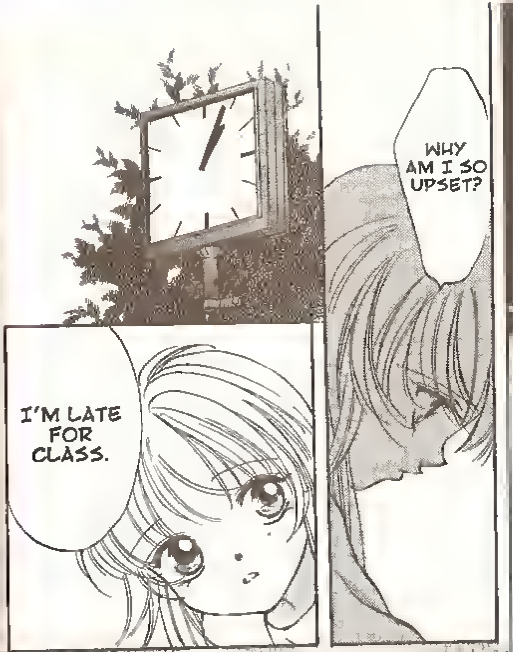

YUNIKO!
YOU ASSHOLE!
I was just wasting my time!
HAVE FUN WITH MICHELLE! I DON'T CARE!
WAIT! I CAN EXPLAIN!
I WAS PRACTICING FOR THE AUDITION...
...BUT...
YUNIKO!
RYU!
MICHELLE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MICHELLE?
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT LOVE...?
I HEARD YOUR VOICE.


MICHELLE, CHANGE OUR AUDITION SLOT TO THE LAST ONE.
I'M GOING TO GO FIND HER.
...DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?
WHY
THERE SHE GOES!
BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
THEN HELP ME OUT!
YOU WANT RYU, RIGHT?
RYU PROMISED TO GIVE UP ON YUNIKO IF SHE GETS NICOLE'S PART!
Ooops
WAIT, YUNIKO!
I WAS...
Ryu's a jerk!
He's the one who wants me to be an actress...

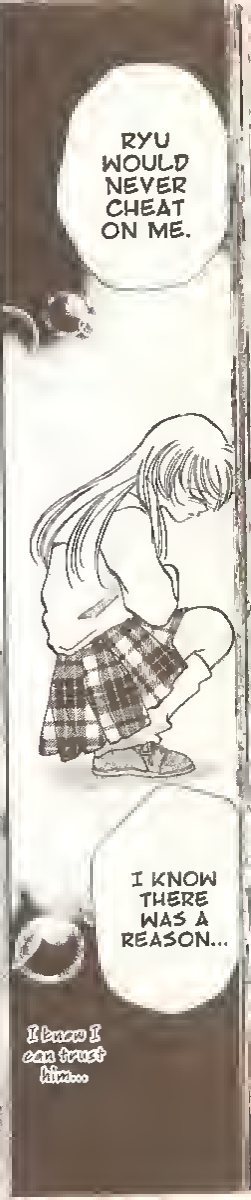

He couldn't resist...
What was he doing? Michelle was naked!
They had great chemistry when they were rehearsing today...
Did he...?
LET'S SEE IF THE CHEMISTRY IS FOR REAL!!
HE WOULD...
...NEVER DO THAT.
HEY...!
GOT IT? THANKS!!
.....
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?
WHERE DID SHE GO?
SHE'S GOOD AT RUNNING AWAY.


One evening..
Can you see the face of a woman in the shadows of this photograph?
Horror Special
I'll put the curtains. That should calm me down
CRAP!
ボロ...
Let me out!
ばっ
NOOO!

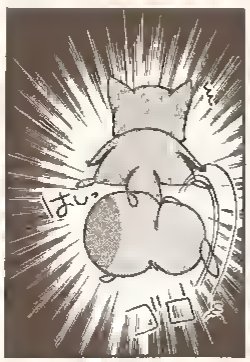

RYU...
WHERE AM I?
OH, NO!
MOVE OUTTA THE WAY!


I'M LATE FOR CLASS.
WHY AM I SO UPSET?

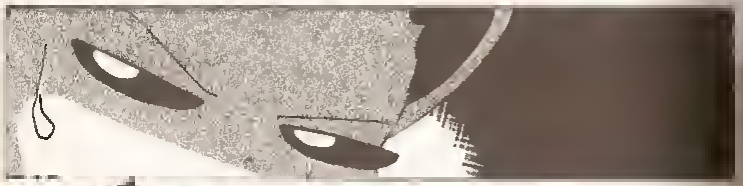
I WANT US TO BE ACTORS.
JUST LIKE AKIRA, NANAE AND MAIKO SAKURA


RYU WOULD NEVER CHEAT ON ME.
I KNOW THERE WAS A REASON...
I know I can trust him...

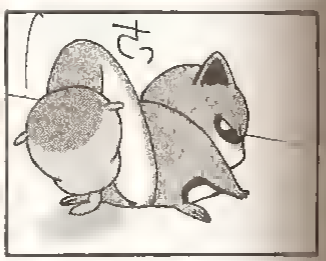
Don't leave me_
I want to go



Should I leave her?



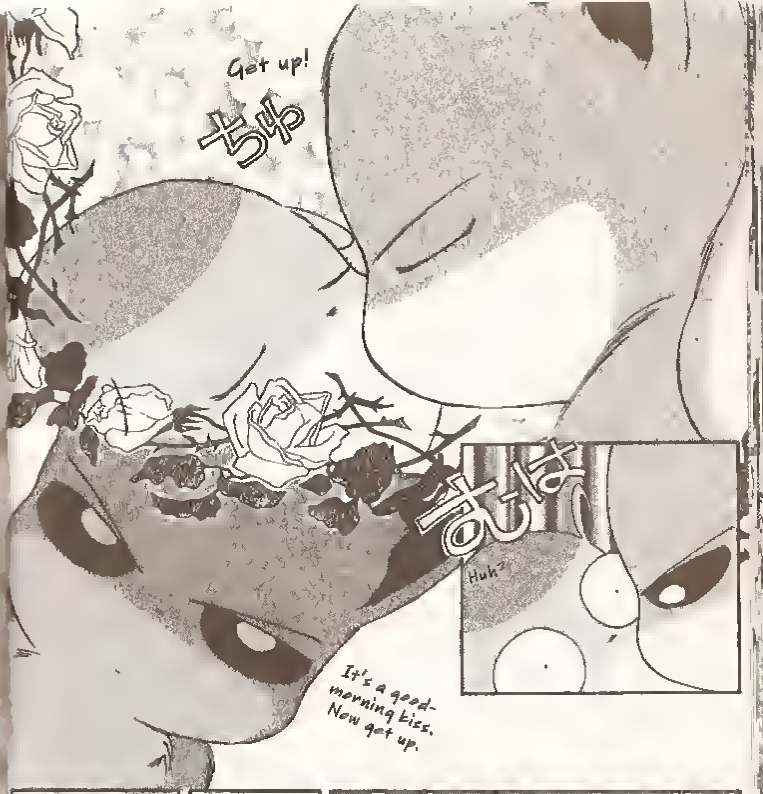
Ha!

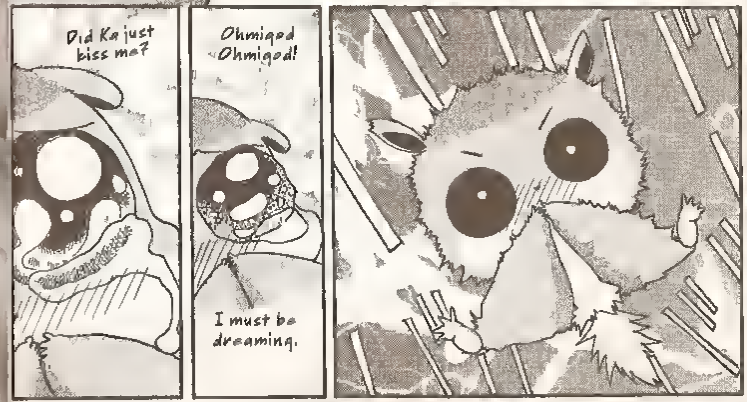


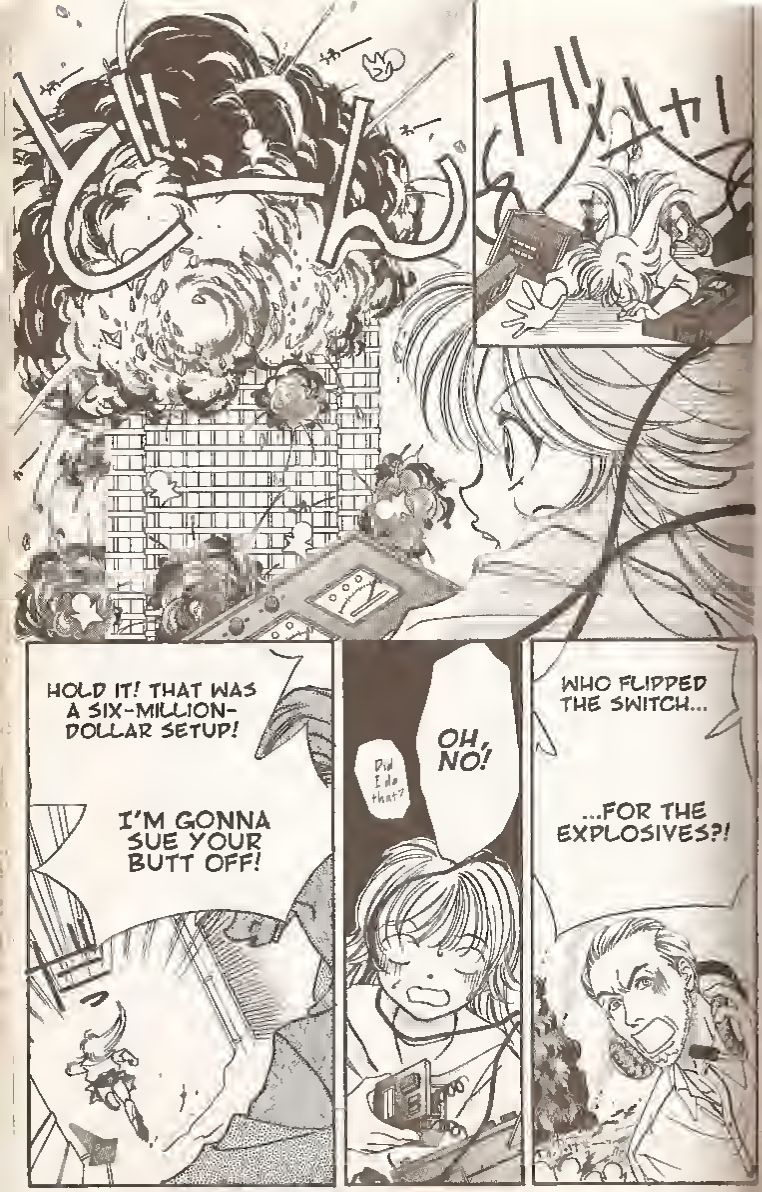
Let's go!

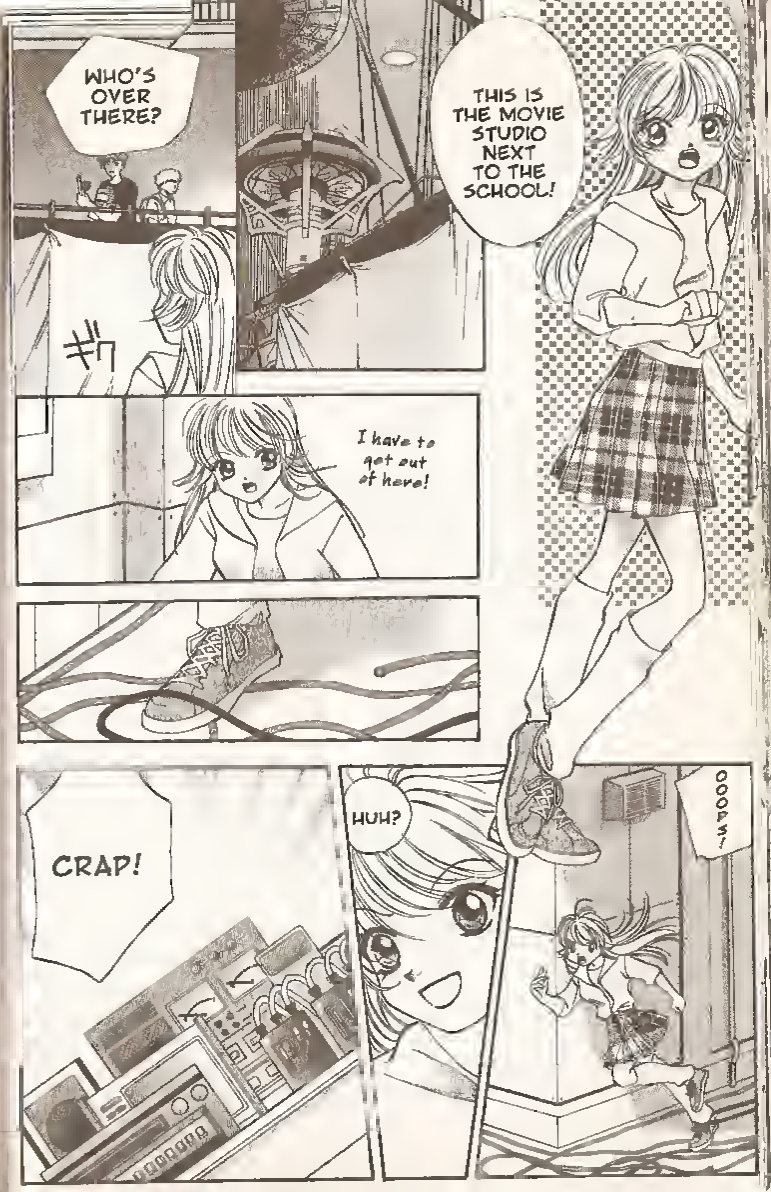
It's 1 p.m.. We should be sleepy.
I have to go check it out, though...
I want to see [illegible]'s audition!

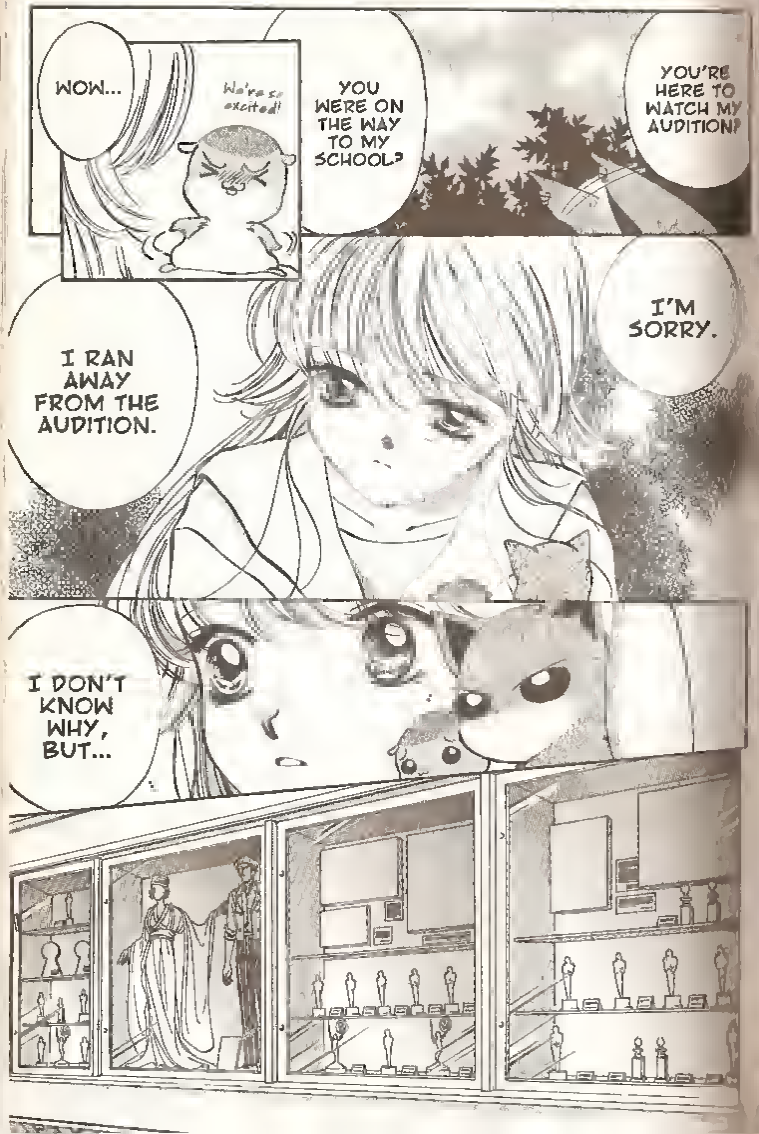
チュ
チュ
Ba-bump!
Ba-bump!
He
kissed me!
チュッチュー
ユキ


Get up!
ちゅ
ぬぉ
Huh?
It's a good-morning kiss. Now get up.

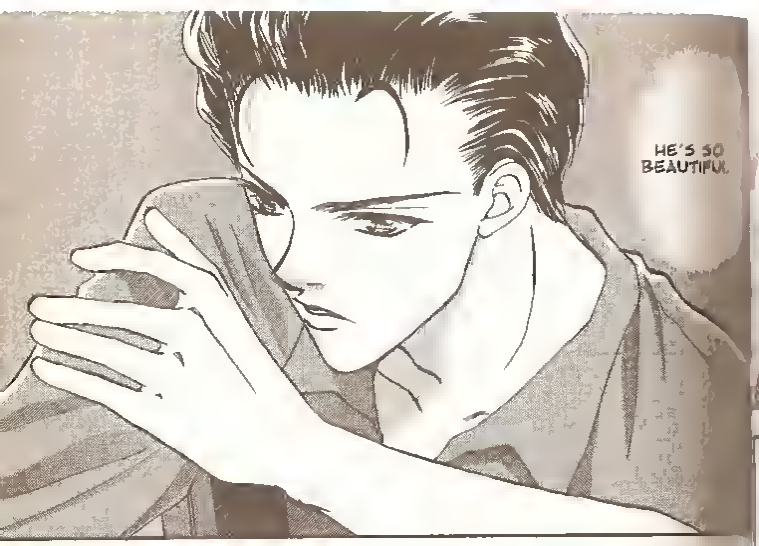

Did Ka just kiss me?
Ohmigod Ohmigod!
I must be dreaming.

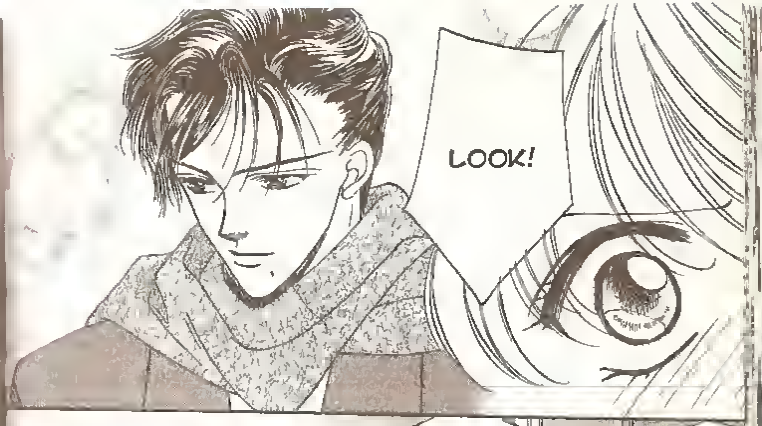

HOLD IT! THAT WAS A SIX-MILLION-DOLLAR SETUP!
I'M GONNA SUE YOUR BUTT OFF!
OH, NO!
Did I do that?
WHO FLIPPED THE SWITCH...
...FOR THE EXPLOSIVES?!


WHO'S OVER THERE?
THIS IS THE MOVIE STUDIO NEXT TO THE SCHOOL!
I have to get out of here!
CRAP!
HUH?
OOOPS~

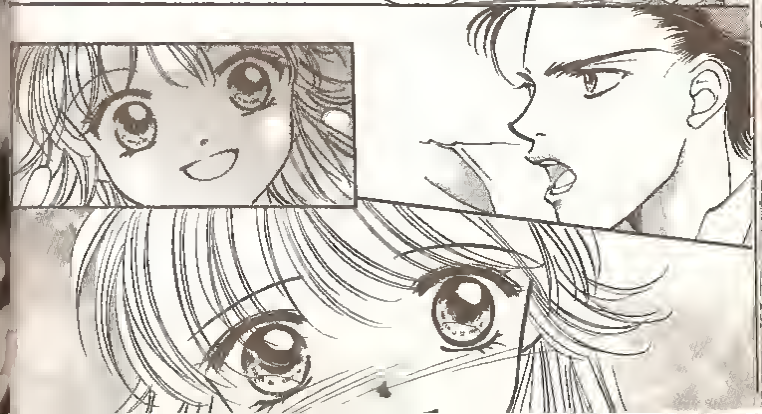

WOW...
We're so excited!
YOU WERE ON THE WAY TO MY SCHOOL?
YOU'RE HERE TO WATCH MY AUDITION?
I'M SORRY.
I RAN AWAY FROM THE AUDITION.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...

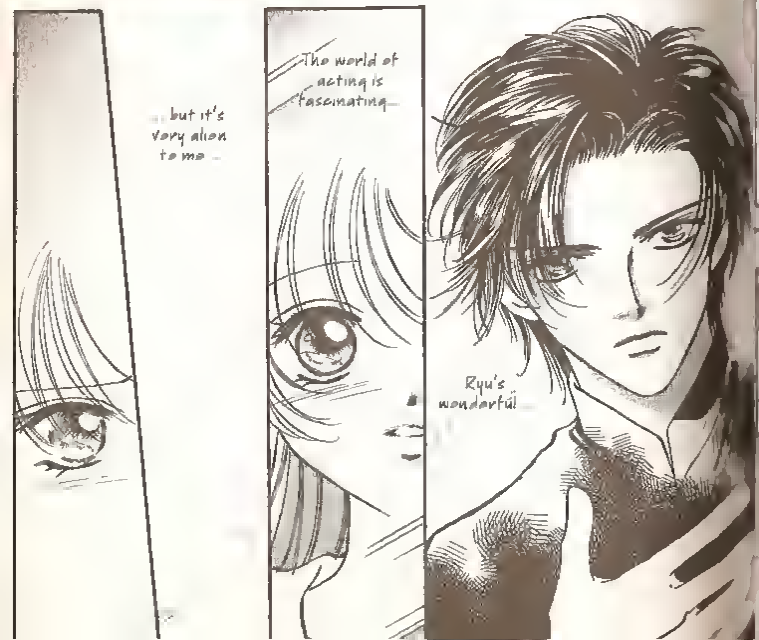
THIS PLACE IS LIKE A MAZE!
I'M LOST!
WOW! A BUILDING EXPLODED IN FRONT OF ME!
STAGE 2
STAGE 16
?!
WHOA!
KAMUI! CINNAMON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU SHOULD BE ASLEEP!
Uh-huh!
What are you doing here, Yuniko?
She caught them!
Ta-Daaa!


HE'S SO BEAUTIFUL

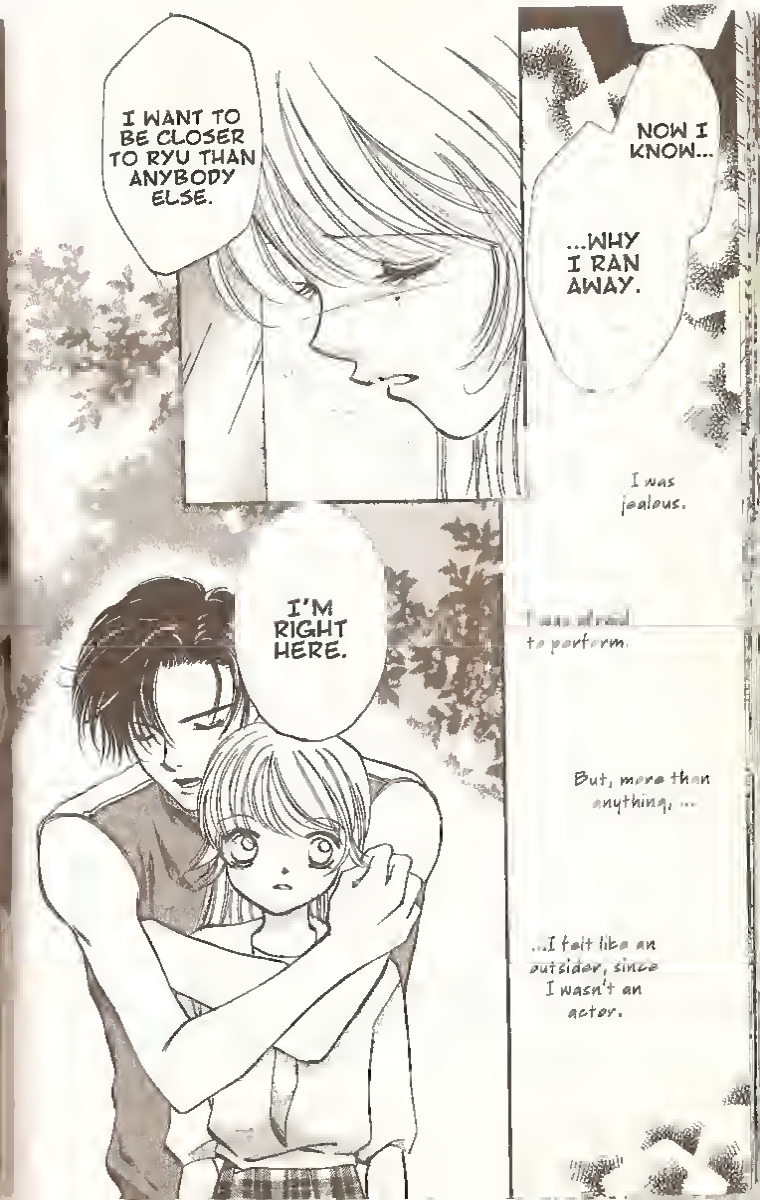

LOOK!

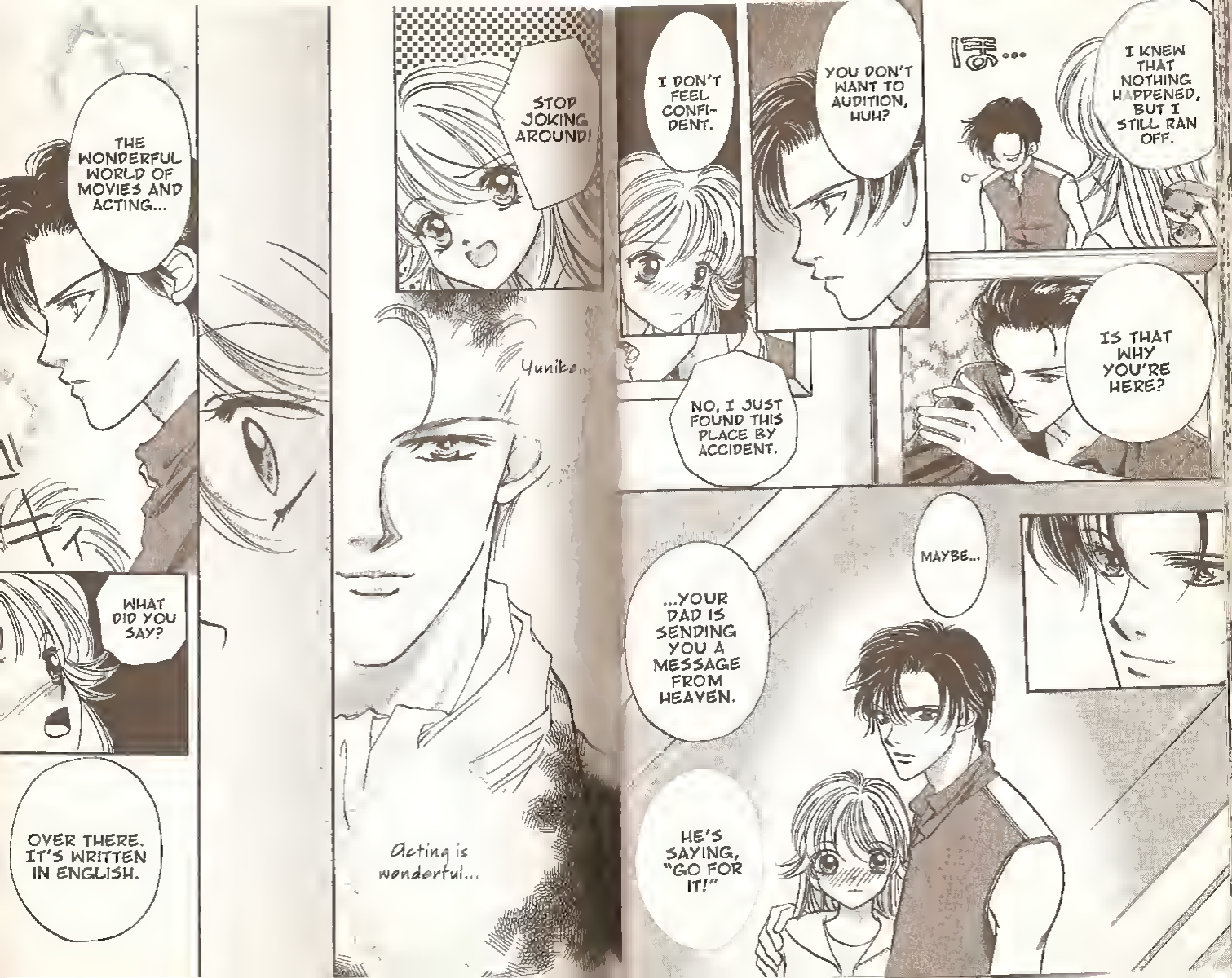
I WANT IT! ♡
How big is the window?
HIS PHOTO-GRAPH AND COSTUME!
IT'S A DISPLAY OF MOVIES THAT WERE SHOT HERE!
IT'S AKIRA NANAE!

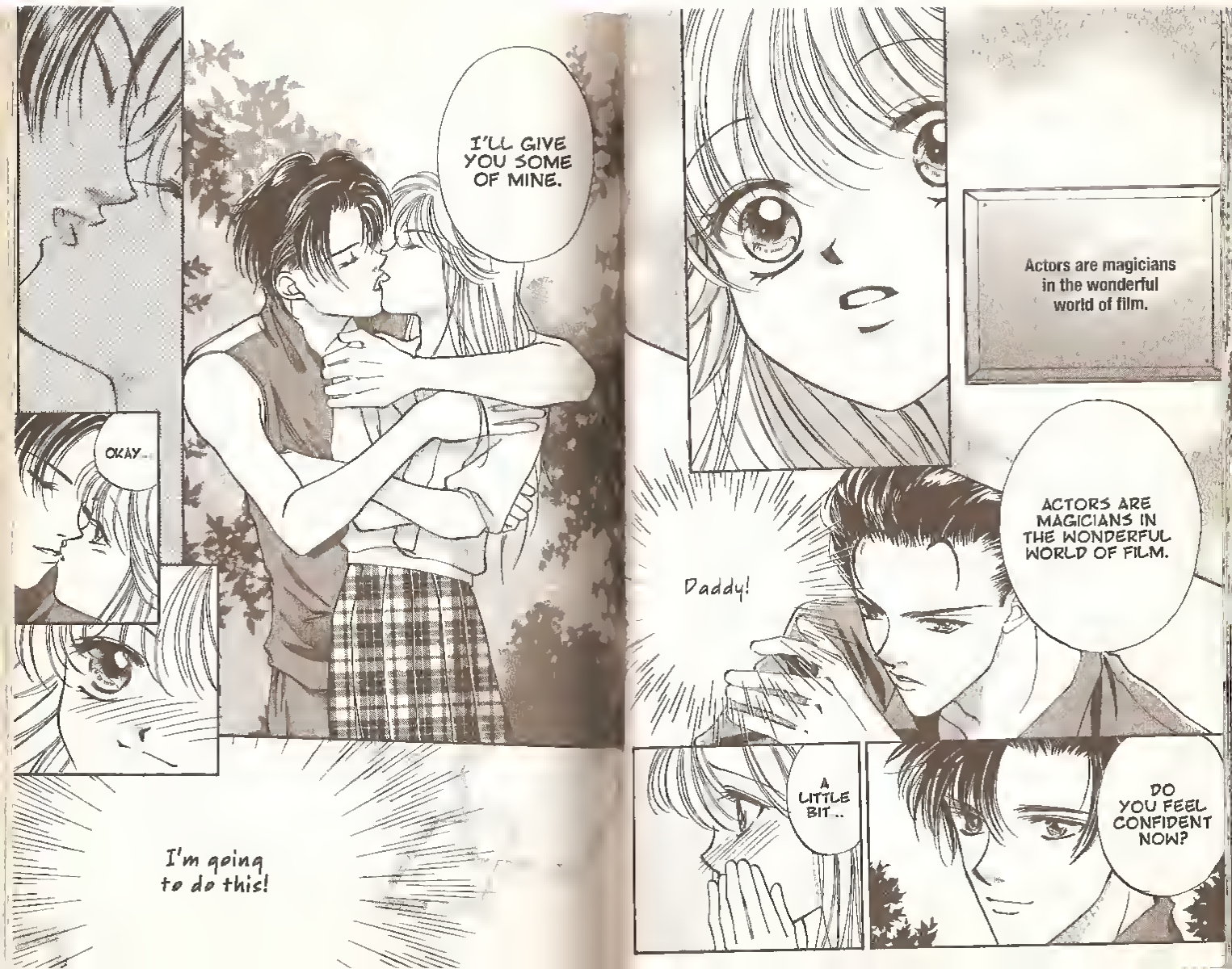


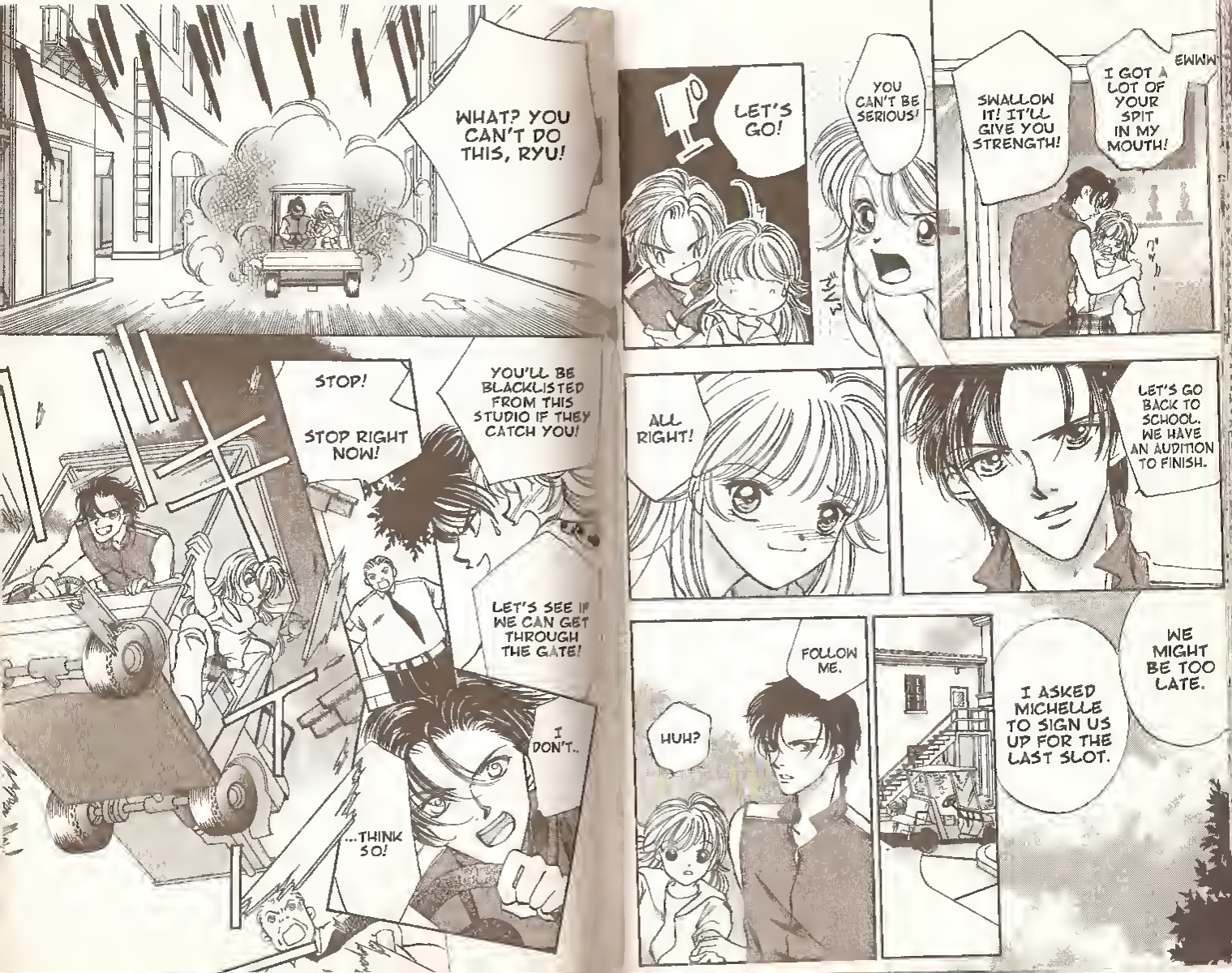

...but it's very alien to me...
The world of acting is fascinating...
Ryu's wonderful...

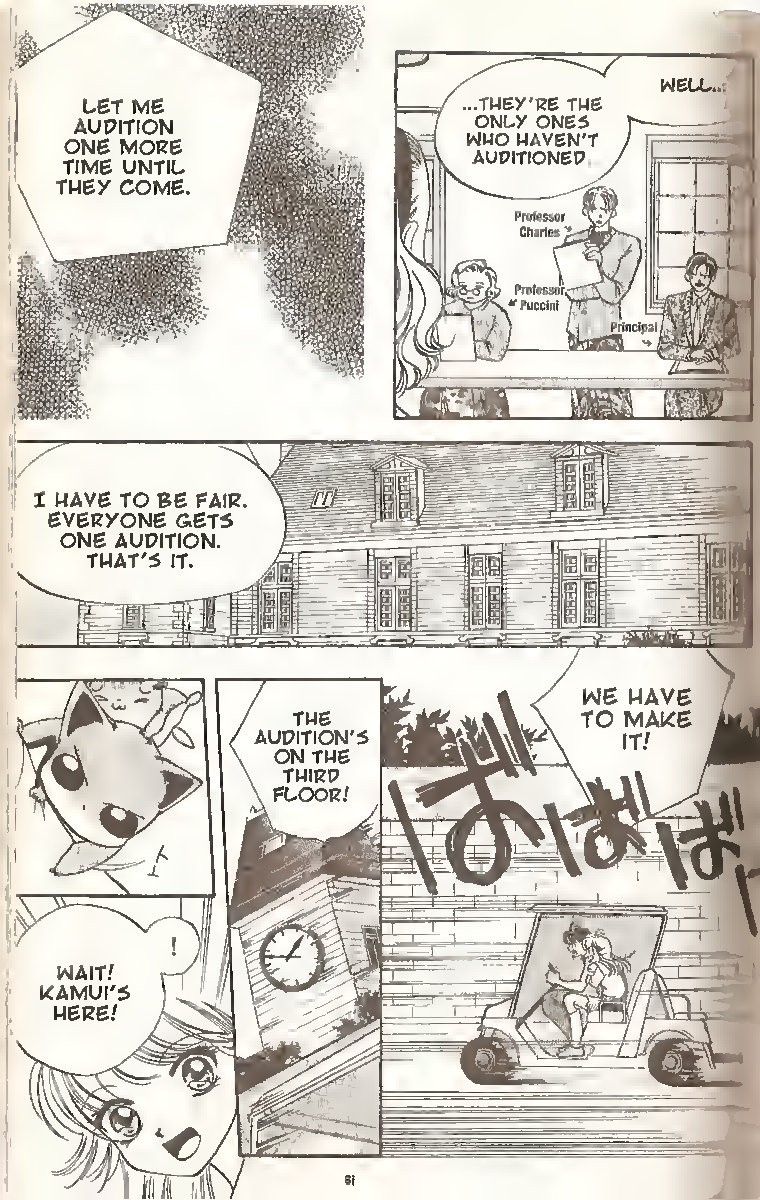
RYU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
SORRY!
I'M SORRY!
IF NOTHING HAPPENED, WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
WHY ARE YOU SORRY?

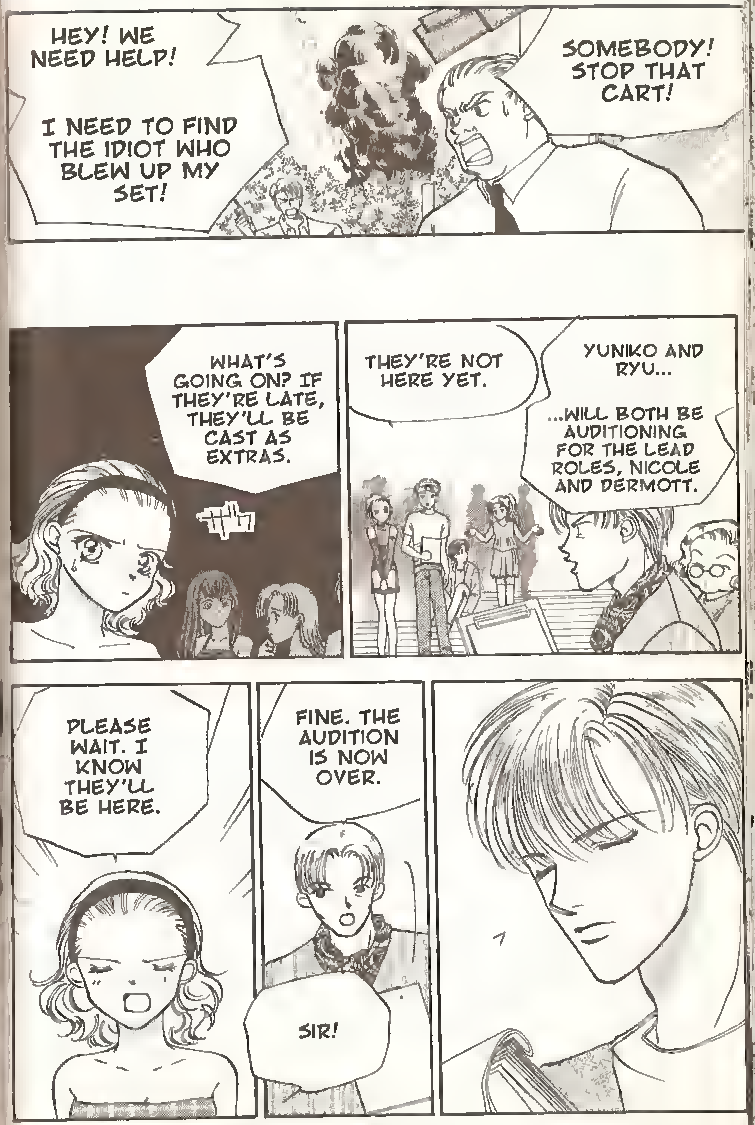

I WANT TO BE CLOSER TO RYU THAN ANYBODY ELSE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
NOW I KNOW...
...WHY I RAN AWAY.
I was jealous.
I was afraid to perform.
But, more than anything, ...
...I felt like an outsider, since I wasn't an actor.

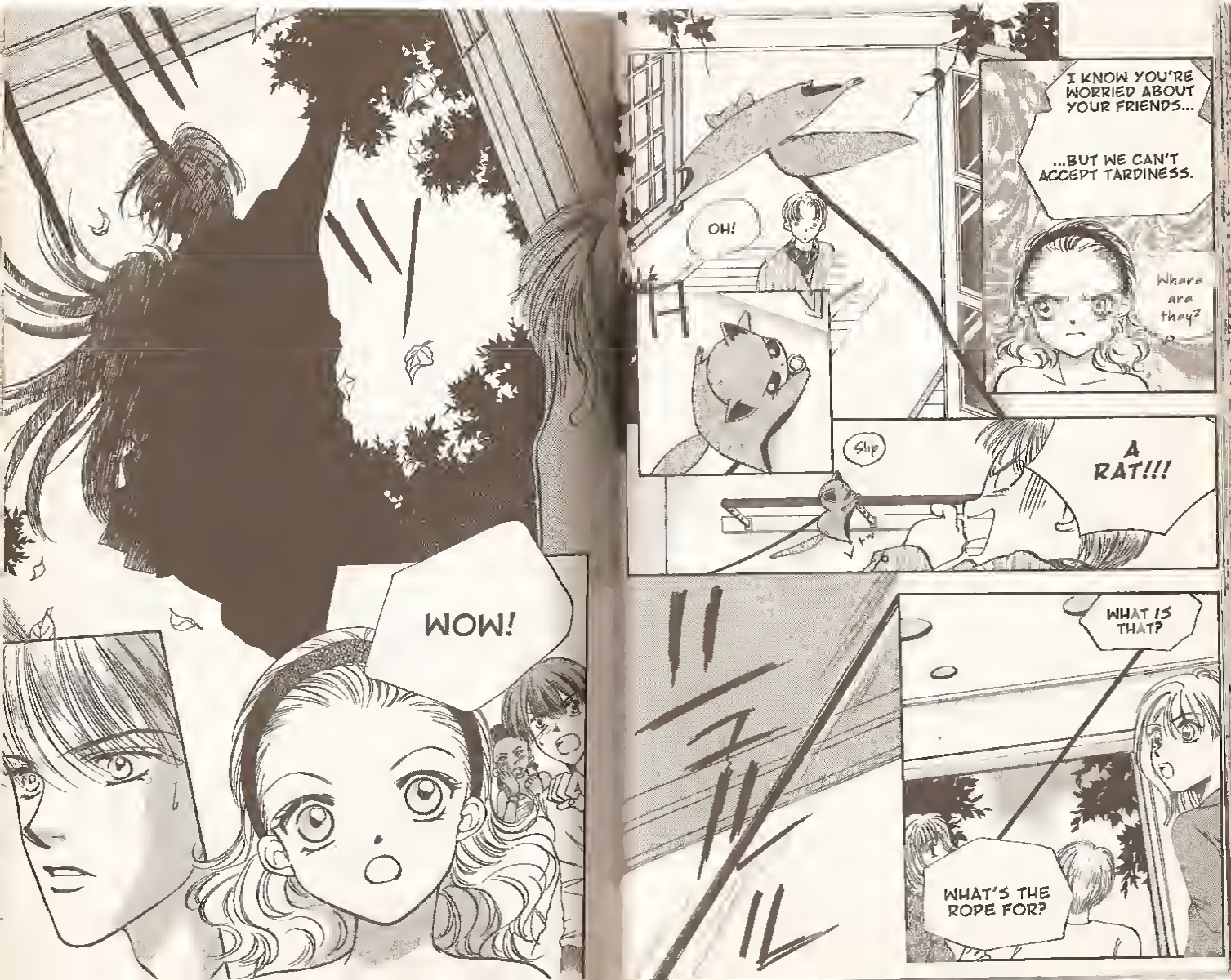

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MOVIES AND ACTING...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
OVER THERE. IT'S WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.
STOP JOKING AROUND!
Yuniko...
Acting is wonderful...
I DON'T FEEL CONFI-DENT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO AUDITION, HUH?
NO, I JUST FOUND THIS PLACE BY ACCIDENT.
I KNEW THAT NOTHING HAPPENED, BUT I STILL RAN OFF.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
MAYBE...
...YOUR DAD IS SENDING YOU A MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN.
HE'S SAYING, "GO FOR IT!"

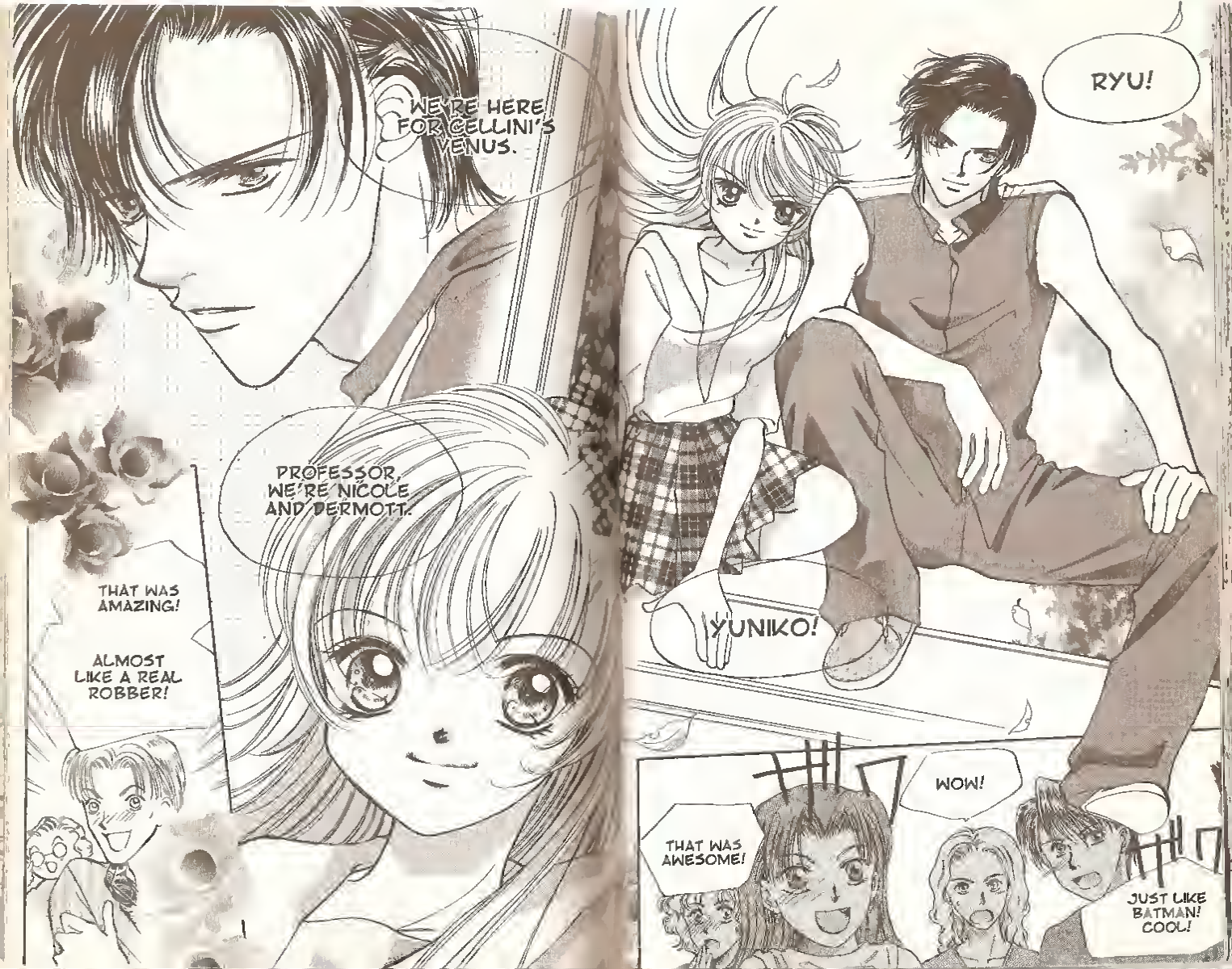

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MINE.
OKAY...
I'm going to do this!
Actors are magicians in the wonderful world of film.
Daddy!
ACTORS ARE MAGICIANS IN THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FILM.
A LITTLE BIT..
DO YOU FEEL CONFIDENT NOW?

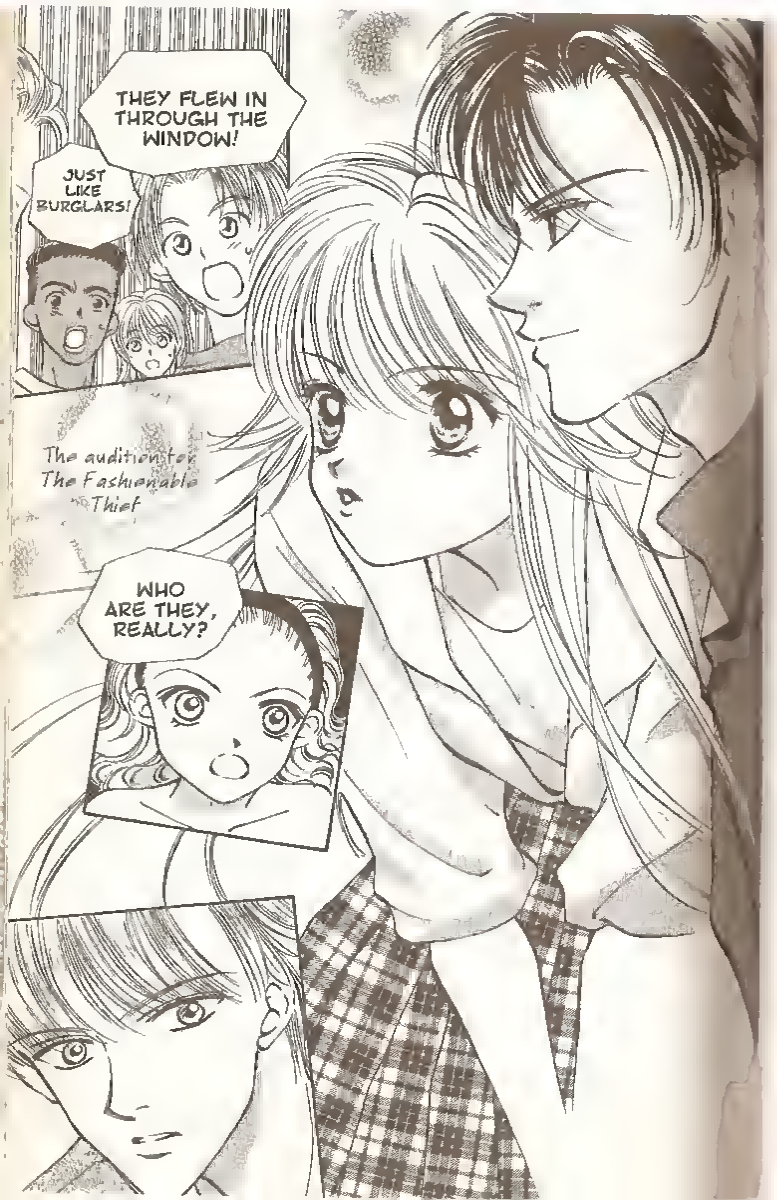

WHAT? YOU CAN'T DO THIS, RYU!
STOP!
STOP RIGHT NOW!
YOU'LL BE BLACKLISTED FROM THIS STUDIO IF THEY CATCH YOU!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THROUGH THE GATE!
I DON'T..
...THINK SO!
LET'S GO!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
SWALLOW IT! IT'LL GIVE YOU STRENGTH!
I GOT A LOT OF YOUR SPIT IN MY MOUTH!
EWWW
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO BACK TO SCHOOL. WE HAVE AN AUDITION TO FINISH.
FOLLOW ME.
HUH?
I ASKED MICHELLE TO SIGN US UP FOR THE LAST SLOT.
WE MIGHT BE TOO LATE.

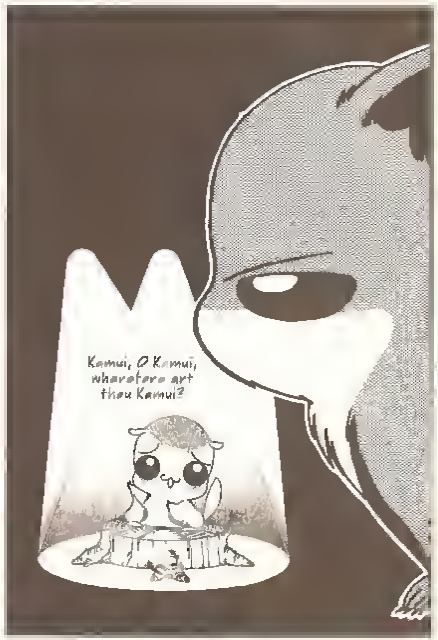

LET ME AUDITION ONE MORE TIME UNTIL THEY COME.
WELL...
...THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVEN'T AUDITIONED.
Professor Charles
Professor Puccini
Principal
I HAVE TO BE FAIR. EVERYONE GETS ONE AUDITION. THAT'S IT.
WE HAVE TO MAKE IT!
THE AUDITION'S ON THE THIRD FLOOR!
WAIT! KAMUI'S HERE!
!


HEY! WE NEED HELP!
I NEED TO FIND THE IDIOT WHO BLEW UP MY SET!
SOMEBODY! STOP THAT CART!
WHAT'S GOING ON? IF THEY'RE LATE, THEY'LL BE CAST AS EXTRAS.
THEY'RE NOT HERE YET.
YUNIKO AND RYU...
...WILL BOTH BE AUDITIONING FOR THE LEAD ROLES, NICOLE AND DERMOTT.
PLEASE WAIT. I KNOW THEY'LL BE HERE.
FINE. THE AUDITION IS NOW OVER.
SIR!

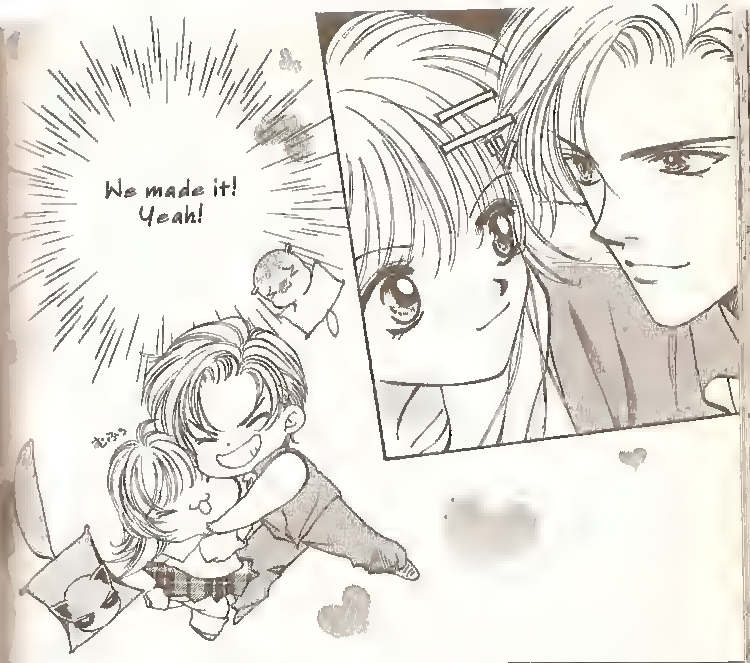

I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS...
...BUT WE CAN'T ACCEPT TARDINESS.
Where are they?
OH!
Slip
A RAT!!!
WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT'S THE ROPE FOR?
WOW!

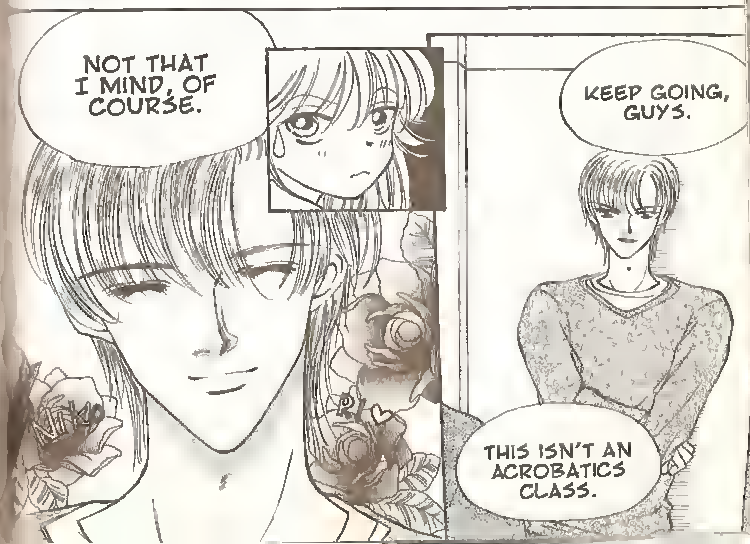

WE'RE HERE FOR CELLINI'S VENUS.
PROFESSOR, WE'RE NICOLE AND DERMOTT.
THAT WAS AMAZING!
ALMOST LIKE A REAL ROBBER!
RYU!
YUNIKO!
WOW!
THAT WAS AWESOME!
JUST LIKE BATMAN! COOL!


THEY FLEW IN THROUGH THE WINDOW!
JUST LIKE BURGLARS!
The audition for The Fashionable Thief
WHO ARE THEY, REALLY?


Kamui, O Kamui, wherefore art thou Kamui?

...right by my side!
Ryu's...


We made it! Yeah!


NOT THAT I MIND, OF COURSE.
KEEP GOING, GUYS.
THIS ISN'T AN ACROBATICS CLASS.

Watch me from heaven, Dad!

One night, a robber named Dermott breaks into her house. She begs him to help her steal the fake Venus in the museum.

Nicole wants to do something to ensure her father's crimes won't be discovered.

Soon, they fall in love.

When a wealthy man named Leland tries to buy the forgery, drama and intrigue ensue.

This is a story filled with love and romance.

The main character, Nicole, is a charming woman who lives in Paris.

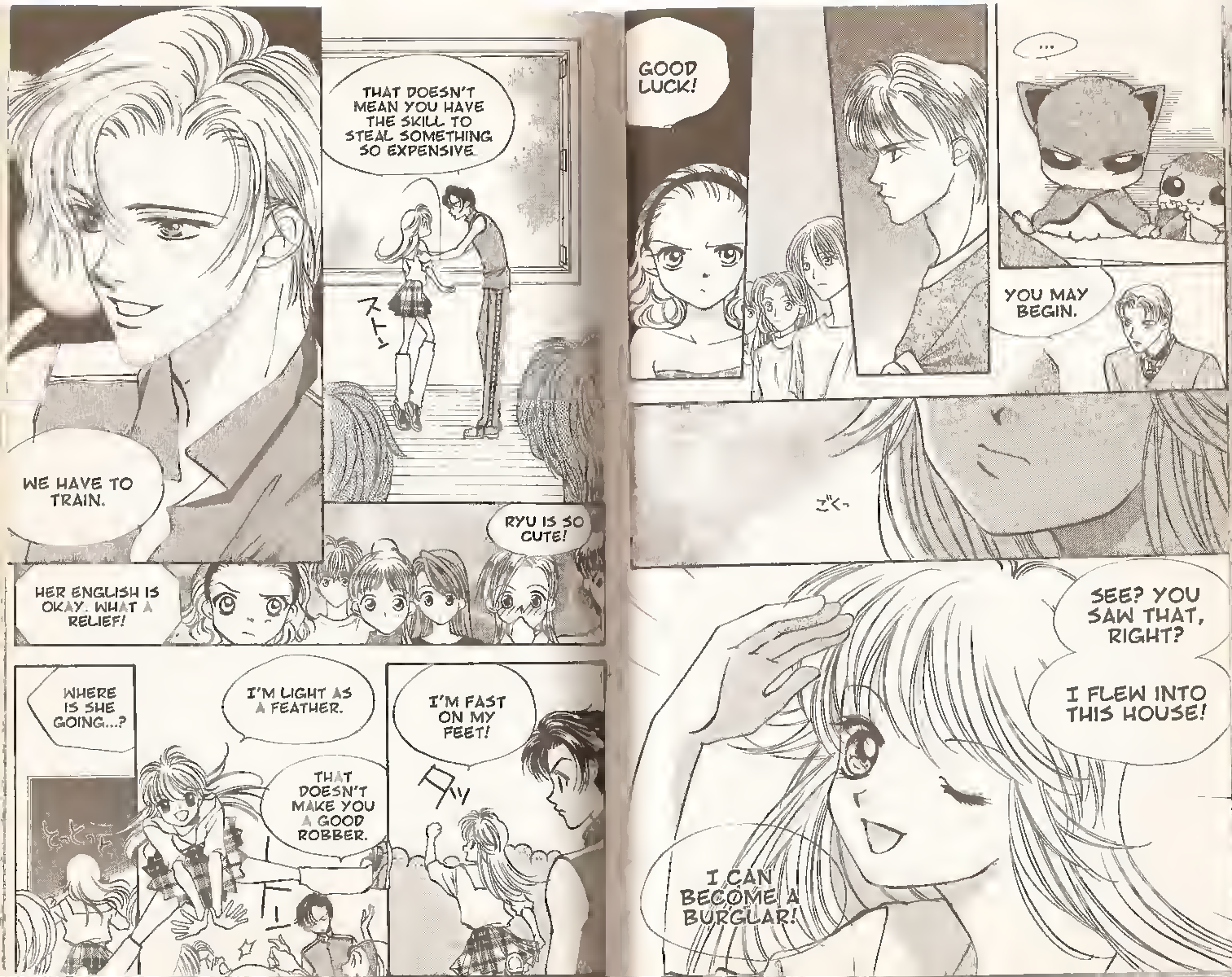
The Fashionable Thief.

Her main source of stress is her father, who makes a living forging famous works of art.

One of her father's forgeries, the copy of the Cellini's Venus, ends up in a museum.

I am Akira Nanao and Maiko Saburai's daughter!

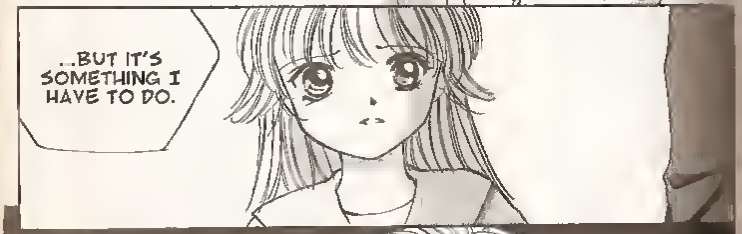
I'm going to give it my best shot!

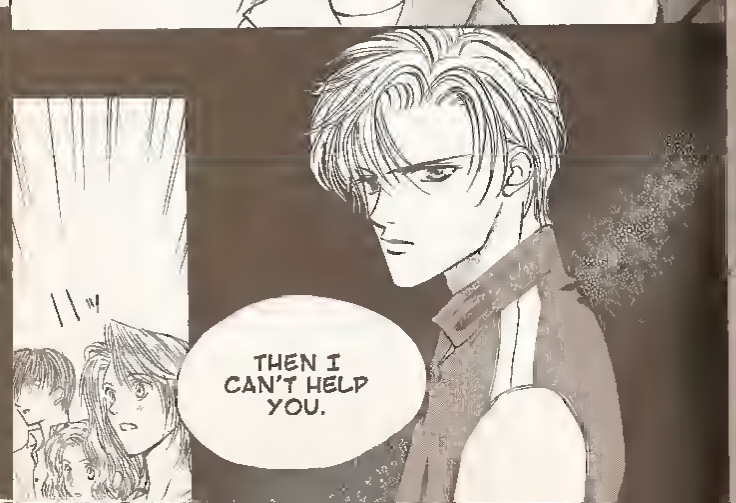

WE HAVE TO TRAIN.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE THE SKILL TO STEAL SOMETHING SO EXPENSIVE
ストン
RYU IS SO CUTE!
HER ENGLISH IS OKAY. WHAT A RELIEF!
WHERE IS SHE GOING...?
I'M LIGHT AS A FEATHER.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU A GOOD ROBBER.
I'M FAST ON MY FEET!
GOOD LUCK!
...
YOU MAY BEGIN.
ごく
SEE? YOU SAW THAT, RIGHT?
I FLEW INTO THIS HOUSE!
I CAN BECOME A BURGLAR!

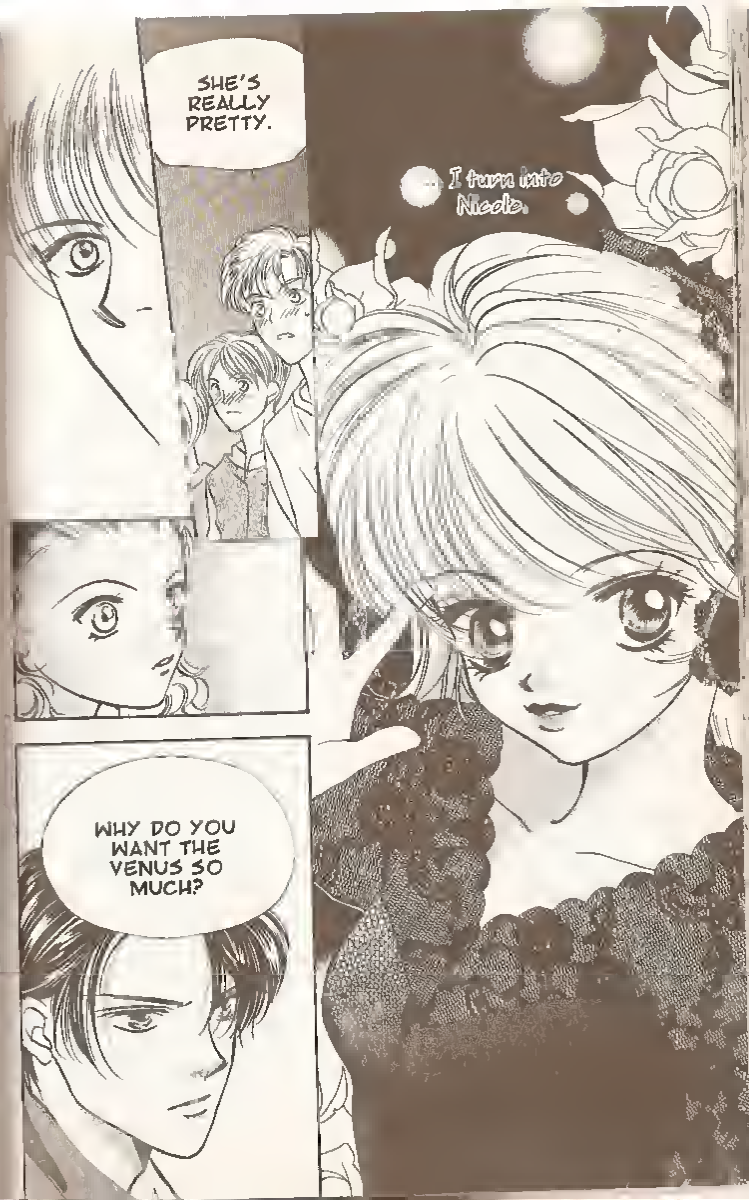
When Ryu talks to me...
How strange
I'm not nervous at all.
I just talk back
THEY HAVE GREAT CHEMISTRY.
THEY'RE GOING OUT, RIGHT?
like a sculpture.
Soon, Ryu turns into Daymo'it, and....
We're pretending to be other people, but the words seem so real.
HOW DID SHE DO THAT?
WHOA!
I'M GOOD WITH MY HANDS, TOO!
YOU CAN RUN, BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK THE ALARM AND PICK THE LOCKS?
CLICK
NO! I WON'T STEAL A STRANGER'S THINGS.
GOOD! WE'LL PRACTICE BY ROBBING A SMALL GALLERY FIRST.
HOW DID SHE UNLOCK THE DOOR?
THIS IS ALL AD LIB! WOW, THIS NICOLE IS VERY HANDY.
I HAVE TO GET THAT SCULPTURE BACK!
THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
THEN DO IT WITH YOUR FATHER.
WAIT!
WHY DON'T YOU STEAL IT YOURSELF, THEN?!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE VENUS BELONGS TO YOUR FATHER.

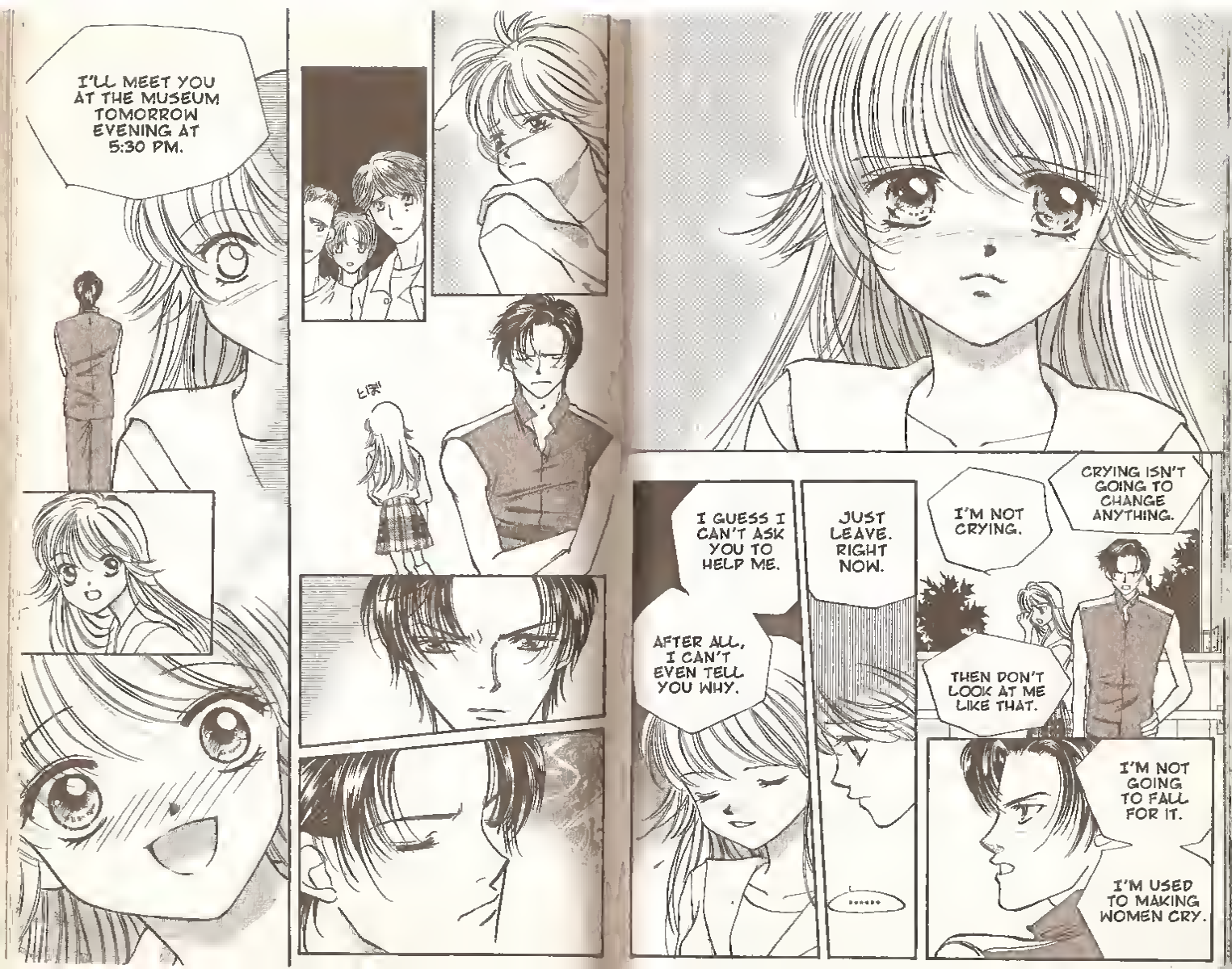
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STEAL A SCULPTURE THAT BELONGS TO YOUR FAMILY?
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
I...
...CAN'T TELL YOU...

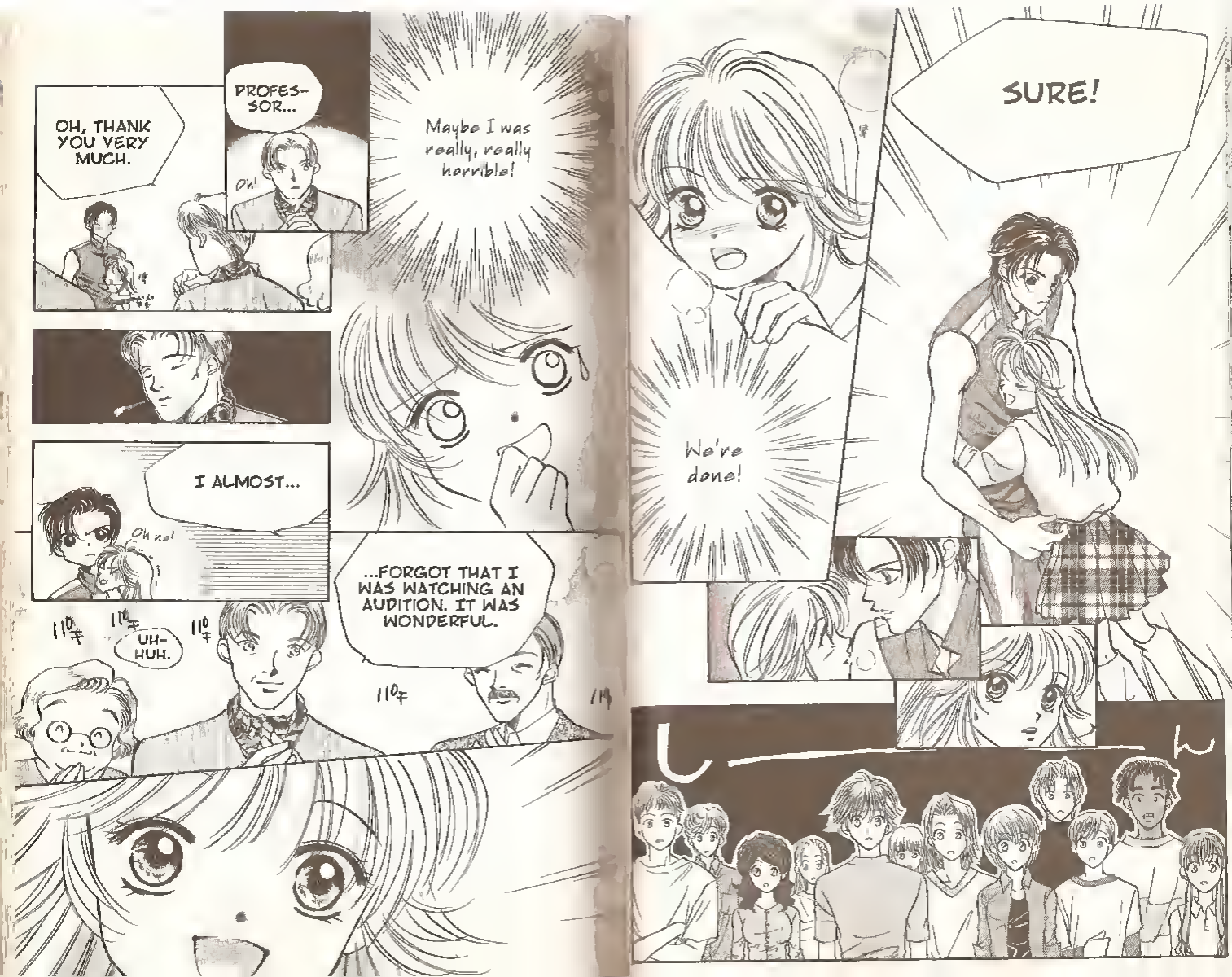
I CAN'T TELL YOU.

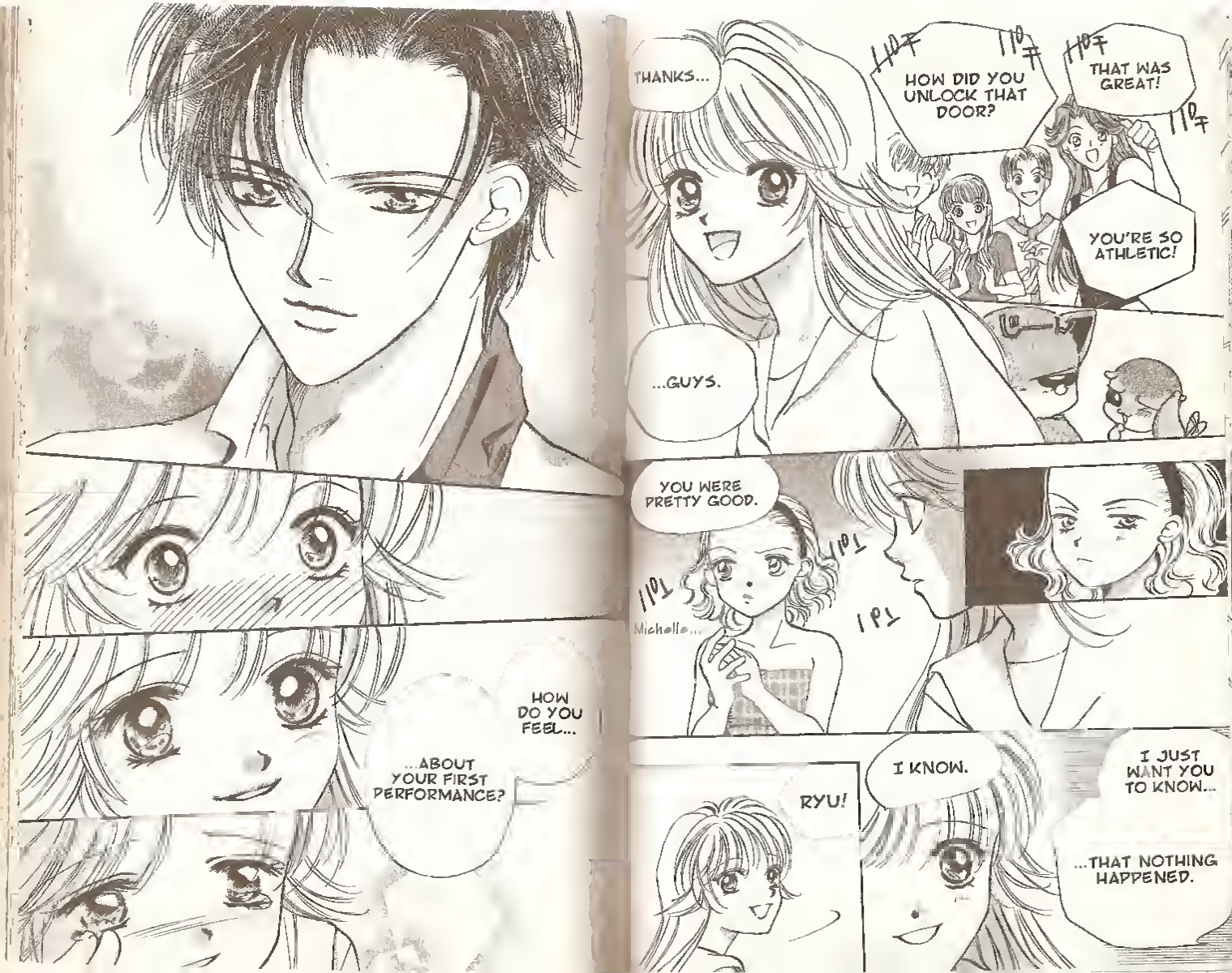

...BUT IT'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.

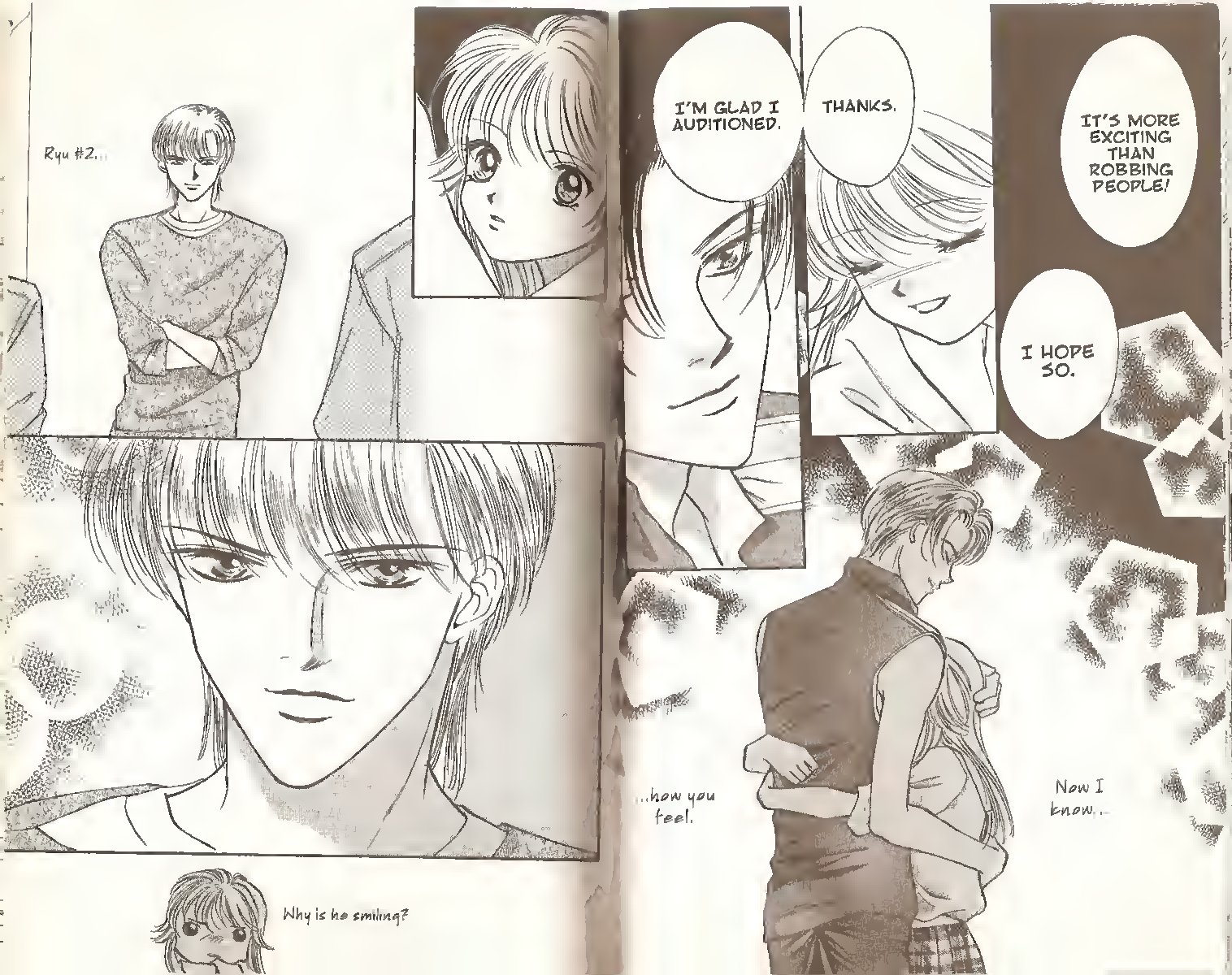

THEN I CAN'T HELP YOU.

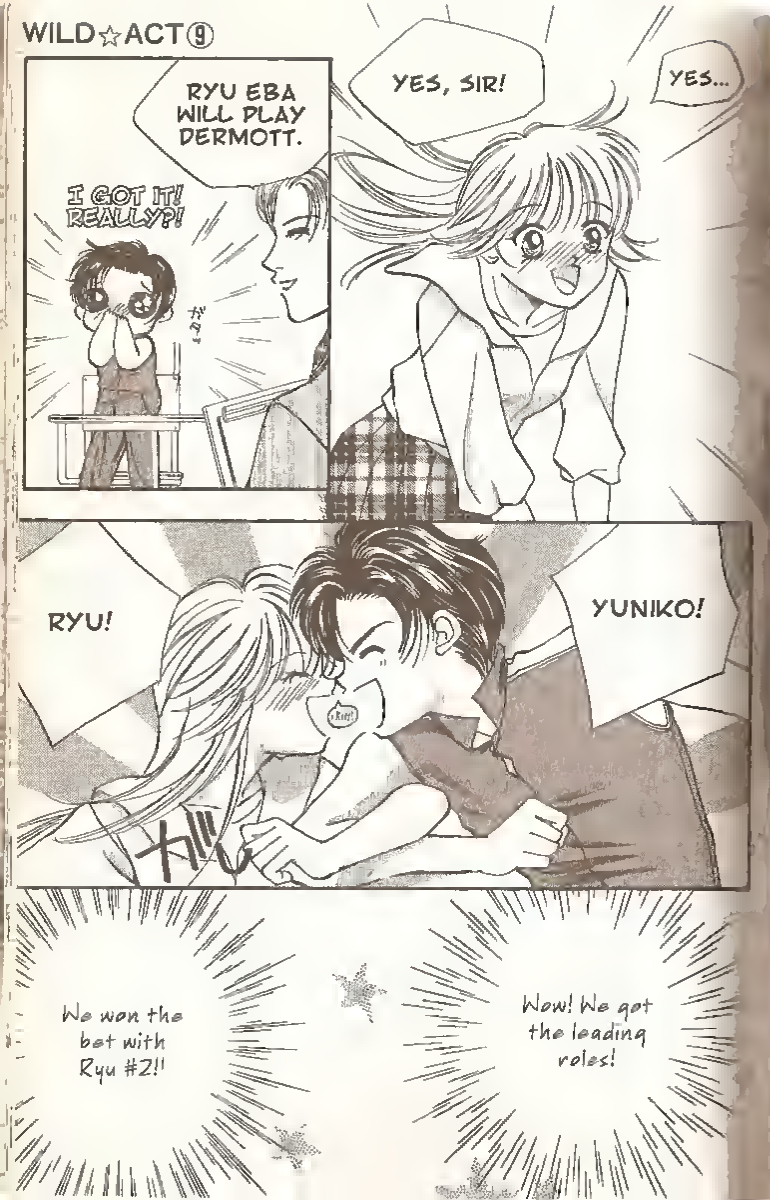

SHE'S REALLY PRETTY.
... I turn into Nicole.
WHY DO YOU WANT THE VENUS SO MUCH?


I'LL MEET YOU AT THE MUSEUM TOMORROW EVENING AT 5:30 PM.
とぼ
I GUESS I CAN'T ASK YOU TO HELP ME.
AFTER ALL, I CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHY.
JUST LEAVE. RIGHT NOW.
.....
I'M NOT CRYING.
CRYING ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING.
THEN DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR IT.
I'M USED TO MAKING WOMEN CRY.

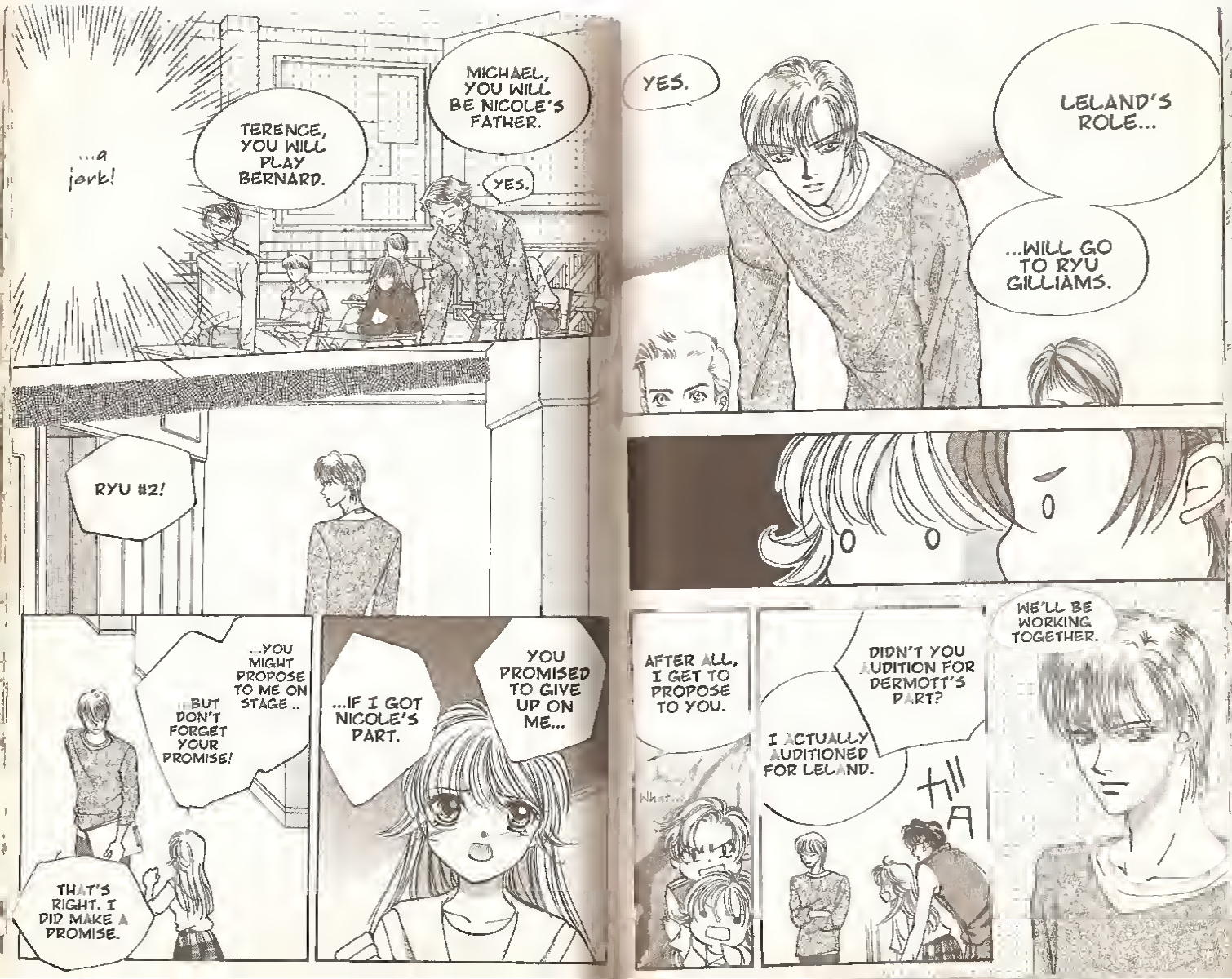

PROFES-SOR...
OH!
OH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Maybe I was really, really horrible!
I ALMOST...
Oh no!
...FORGOT THAT I WAS WATCHING AN AUDITION. IT WAS WONDERFUL.
110℉
UH-HUH.
We're done!
SURE!

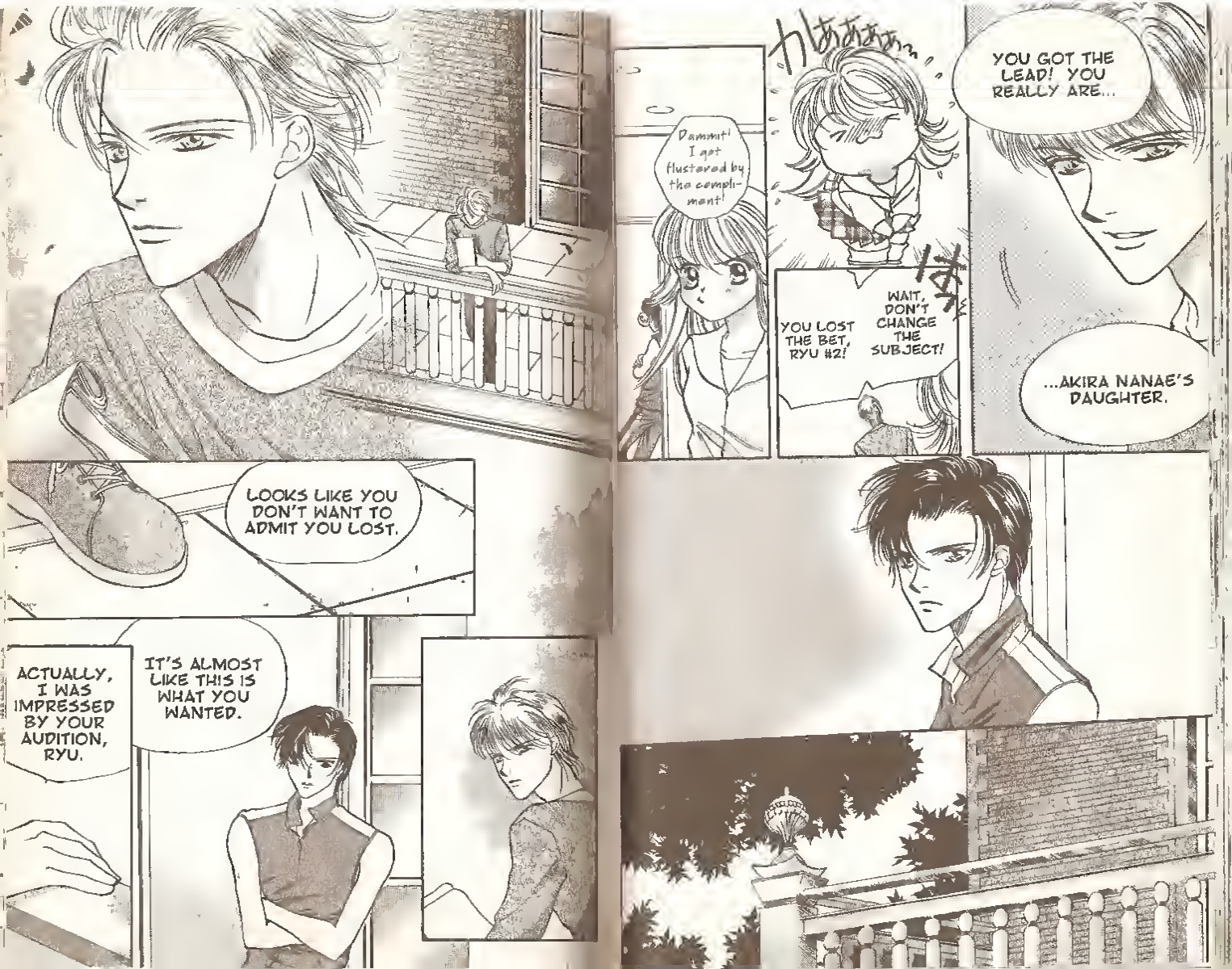

THANKS...
HOW DID YOU UNLOCK THAT DOOR?
THAT WAS GREAT!
YOU'RE SO ATHLETIC!
...GUYS.
YOU WERE PRETTY GOOD.
Michelle...
I KNOW.
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW...
...THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.
RYU!
HOW DO YOU FEEL...
...ABOUT YOUR FIRST PERFORMANCE?

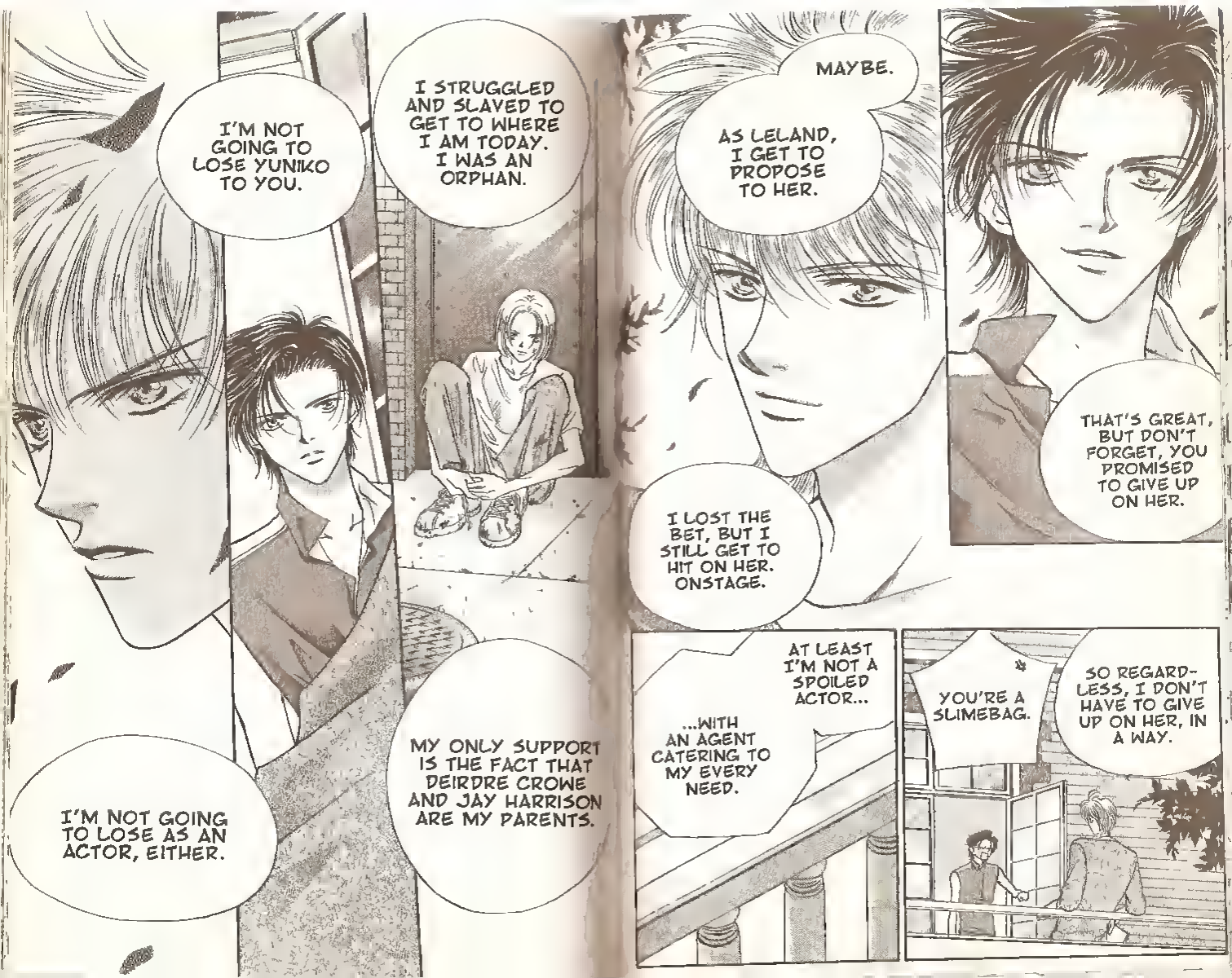

Ryu #2...
Why is he smiling?
I'M GLAD I AUDITIONED.
THANKS.
IT'S MORE EXCITING THAN ROBBING PEOPLE!
I HOPE SO.
...how you feel.
Now I know...

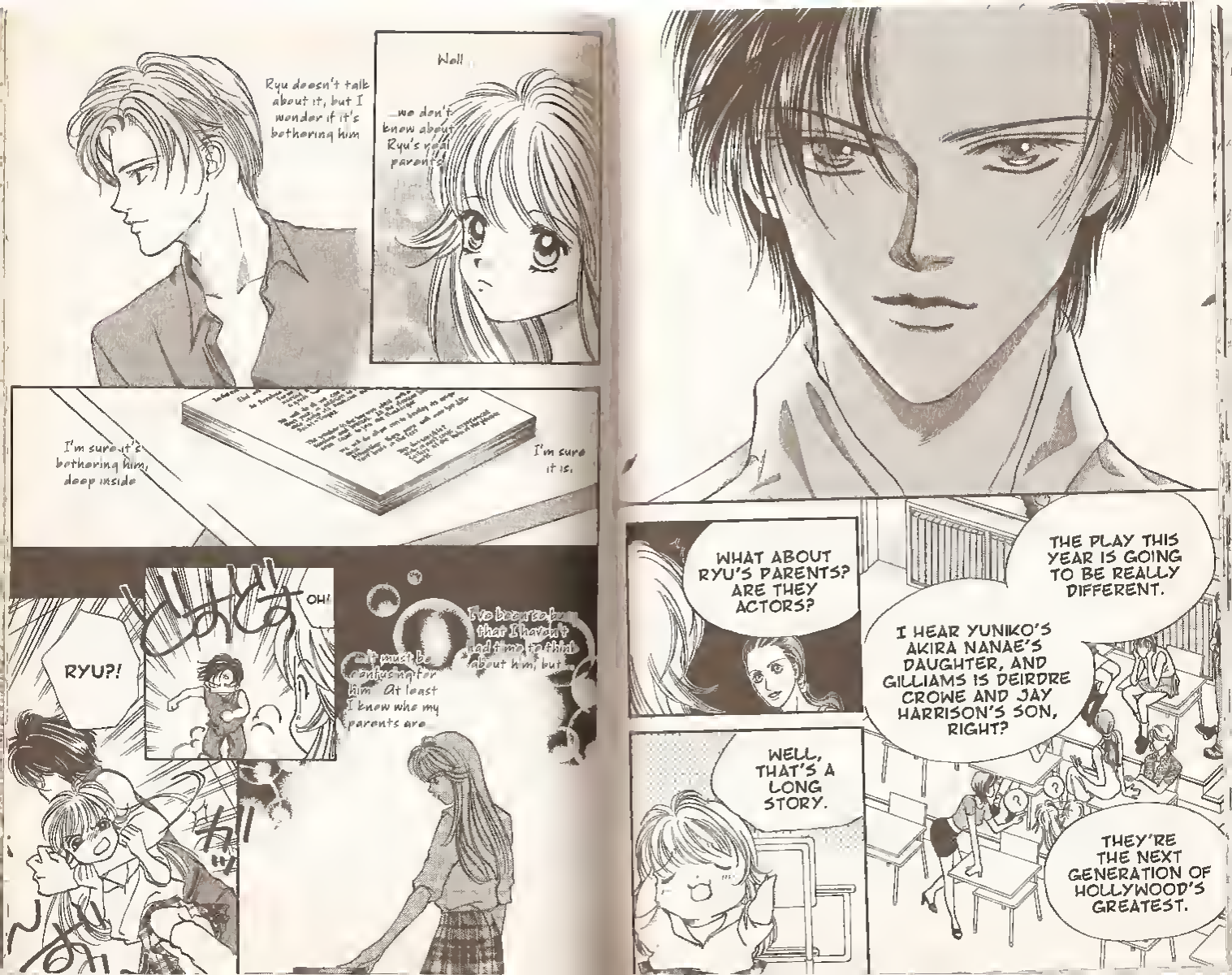

RYU EBA WILL PLAY DERMOTT.
I GOT IT! REALLY?!
YES, SIR!
YES...
RYU!
YUNIKO!
We won the bet with Ryu #2!!
Wow! We got the leading roles!

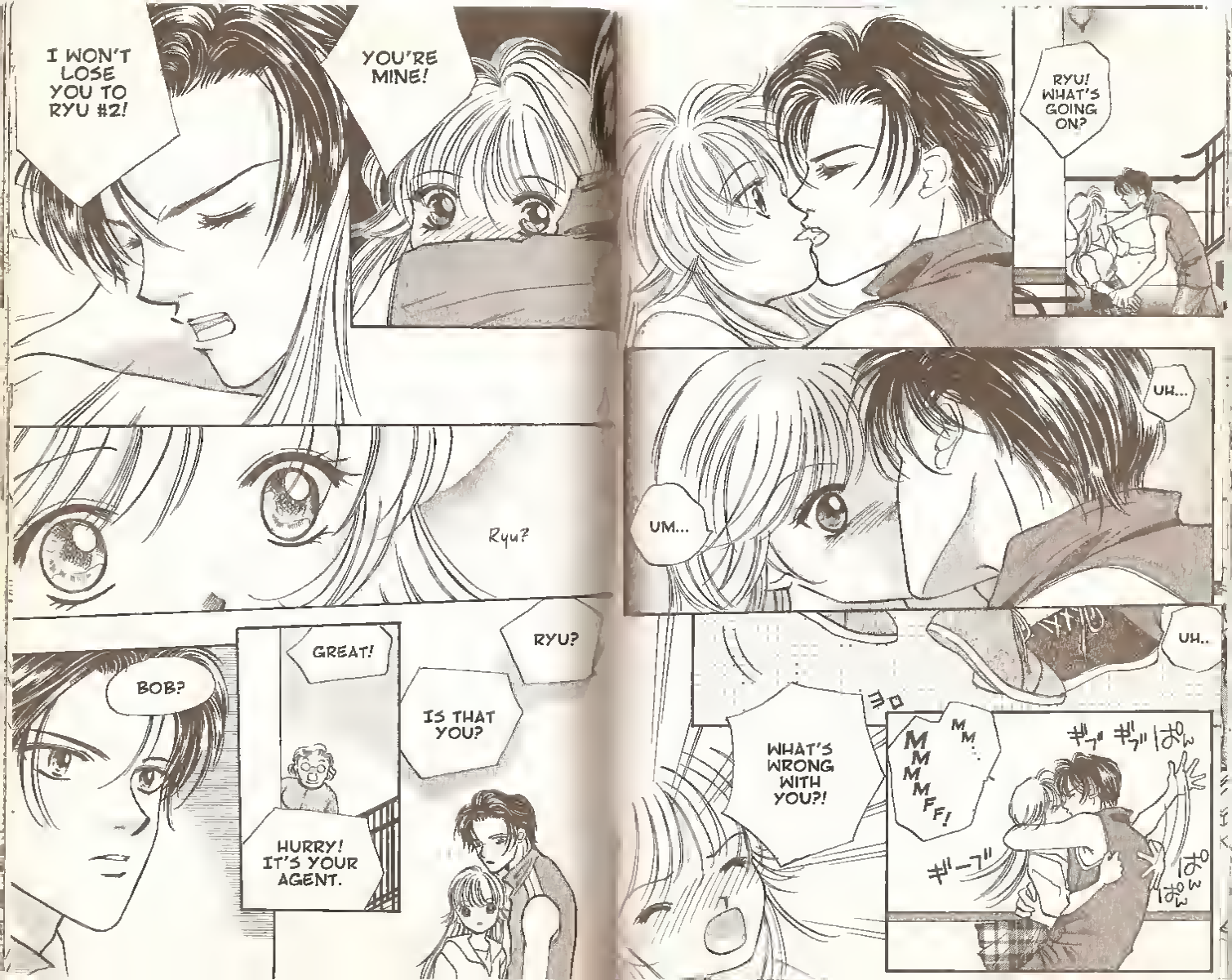
WE'RE ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE AUDITION.
...YUNIKO! CONGRATULATIONS.
THE PART OF NICOLE GOES TO...
YUNIKO! YOU DID IT!
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PERFORMANCE.
Really?
COOL!

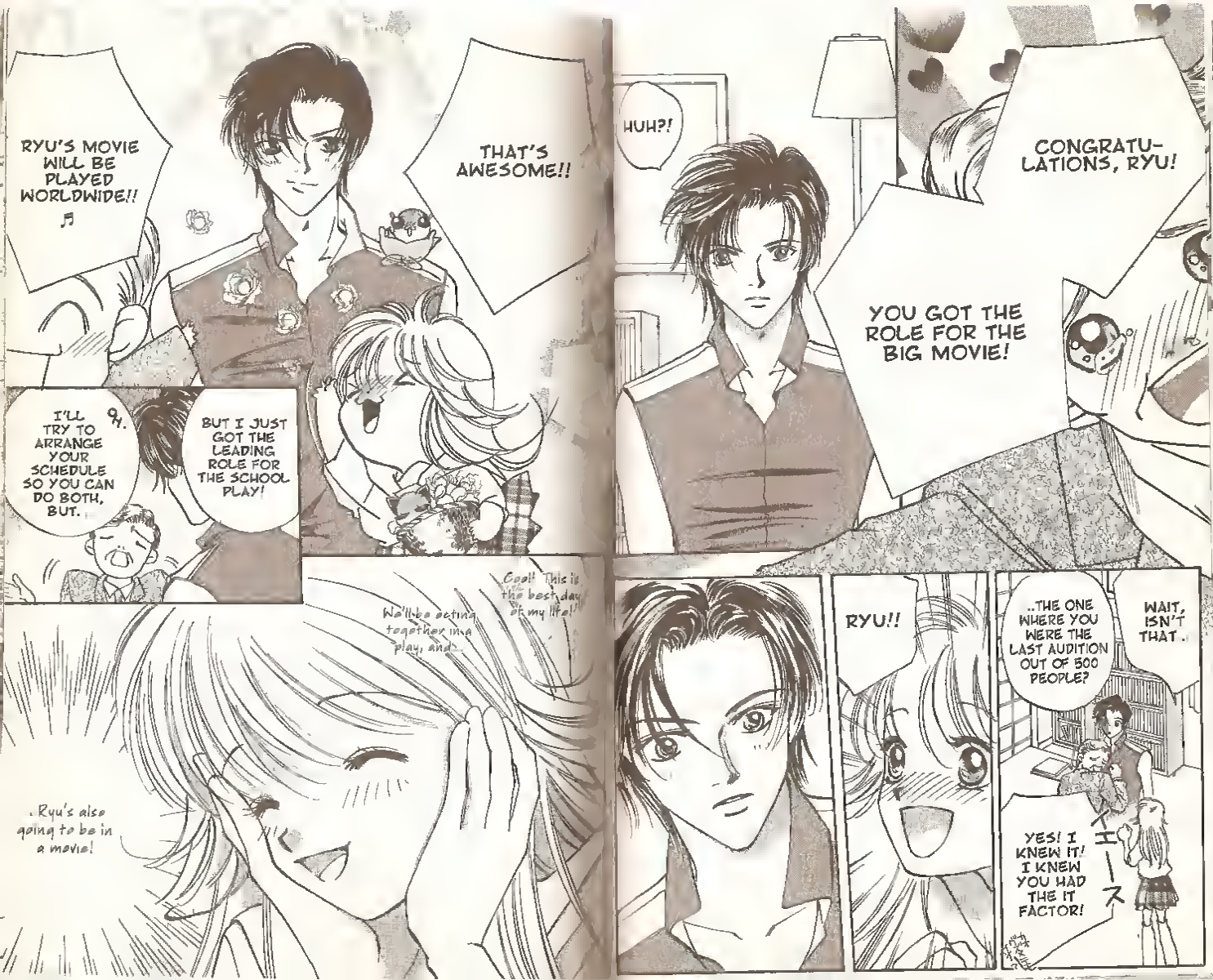

...a jerk!
TERENCE, YOU WILL PLAY BERNARD.
MICHAEL, YOU WILL BE NICOLE'S FATHER.
YES.
RYU #2!
..BUT DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE!
..YOU MIGHT PROPOSE TO ME ON STAGE..
THAT'S RIGHT. I DID MAKE A PROMISE.
...IF I GOT NICOLE'S PART.
YOU PROMISED TO GIVE UP ON ME...
YES.
LELAND'S ROLE...
...WILL GO TO RYU GILLIAMS.
AFTER ALL, I GET TO PROPOSE TO YOU.
What...
I ACTUALLY AUDITIONED FOR LELAND.
DIDN'T YOU AUDITION FOR DERMOTT'S PART?
WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER.

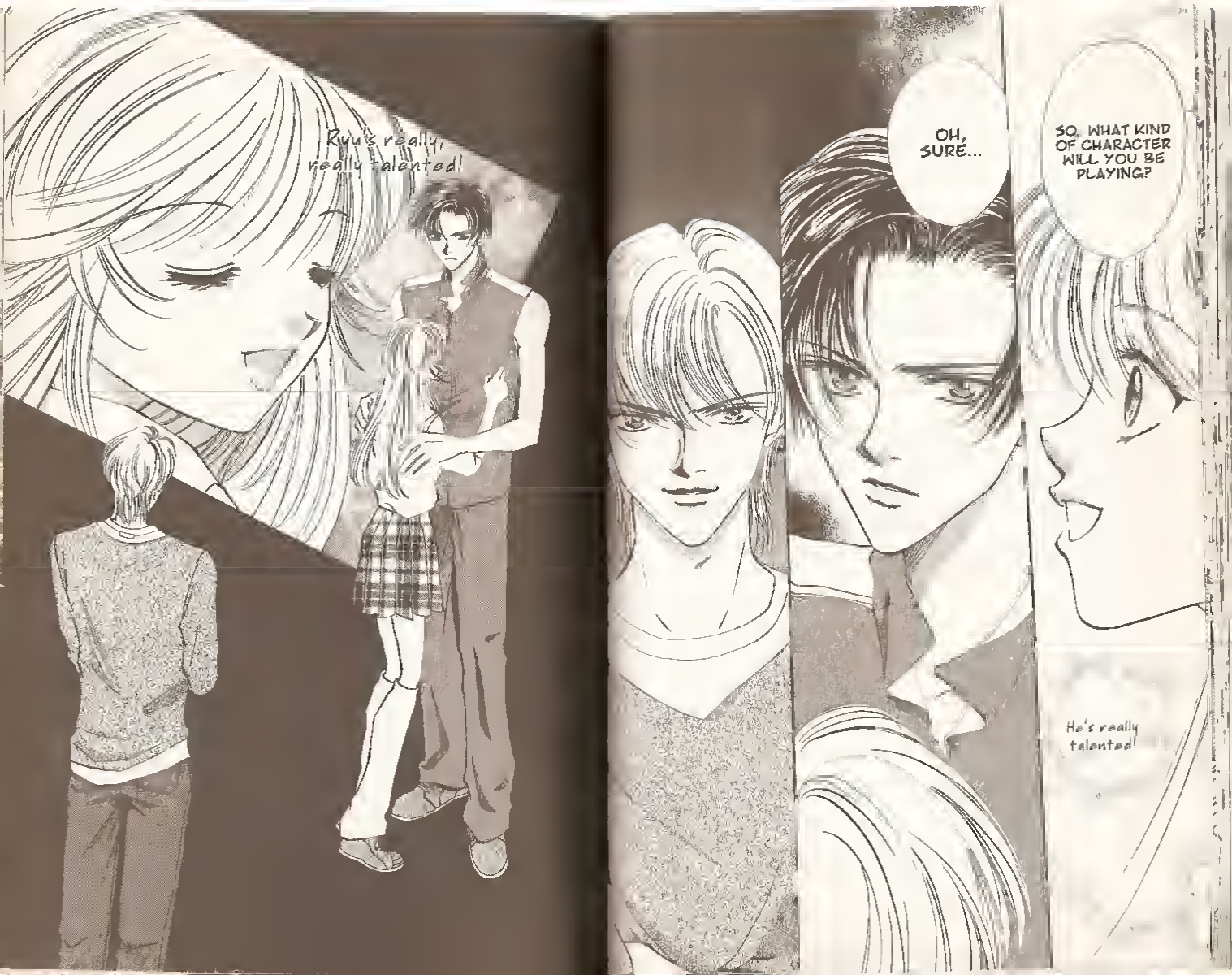

Dammit! I got flustered by the compliment!
YOU GOT THE LEAD! YOU REALLY ARE...
...AKIRA NANAE'S DAUGHTER.
YOU LOST THE BET, RYU #2!
WAIT, DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO ADMIT YOU LOST.
ACTUALLY, I WAS IMPRESSED BY YOUR AUDITION, RYU.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED.


I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE YUNIKO TO YOU.
I STRUGGLED AND SLAVED TO GET TO WHERE I AM TODAY. I WAS AN ORPHAN.
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE AS AN ACTOR, EITHER.
MY ONLY SUPPORT IS THE FACT THAT DEIRDRE CROWE AND JAY HARRISON ARE MY PARENTS.
MAYBE.
AS LELAND, I GET TO PROPOSE TO HER.
I LOST THE BET, BUT I STILL GET TO HIT ON HER. ONSTAGE.
THAT'S GREAT, BUT DON'T FORGET, YOU PROMISED TO GIVE UP ON HER.
AT LEAST I'M NOT A SPOILED ACTOR...
...WITH AN AGENT CATERING TO MY EVERY NEED.
YOU'RE A SLIMEBAG.
SO REGARDLESS, I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE UP ON HER, IN A WAY.

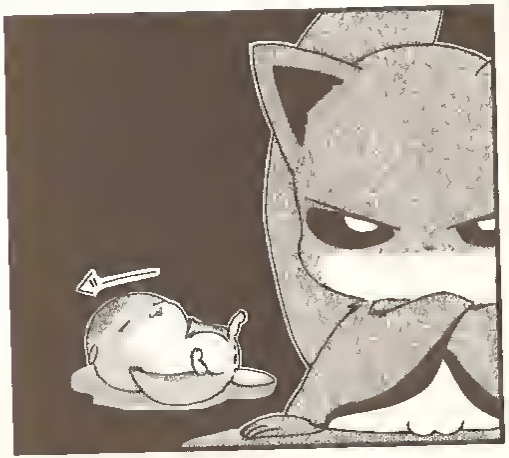

Ryu doesn't talk about it, but I wonder if it's bothering him
Well...
...we don't know about Ryu's real parents
I'm sure it's bothering him, deep inside
I'm sure it is.
OH!
RYU?!
I've been so busy that I haven't had time to think about him, but...
It must be frustrating for him. At least I know who my parents are.
WHAT ABOUT RYU'S PARENTS? ARE THEY ACTORS?
THE PLAY THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE REALLY DIFFERENT.
I HEAR YUNIKO'S AKIRA NANAE'S DAUGHTER, AND GILLIAMS IS DEIRDRE CROWE AND JAY HARRISON'S SON, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S A LONG STORY.
THEY'RE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST.

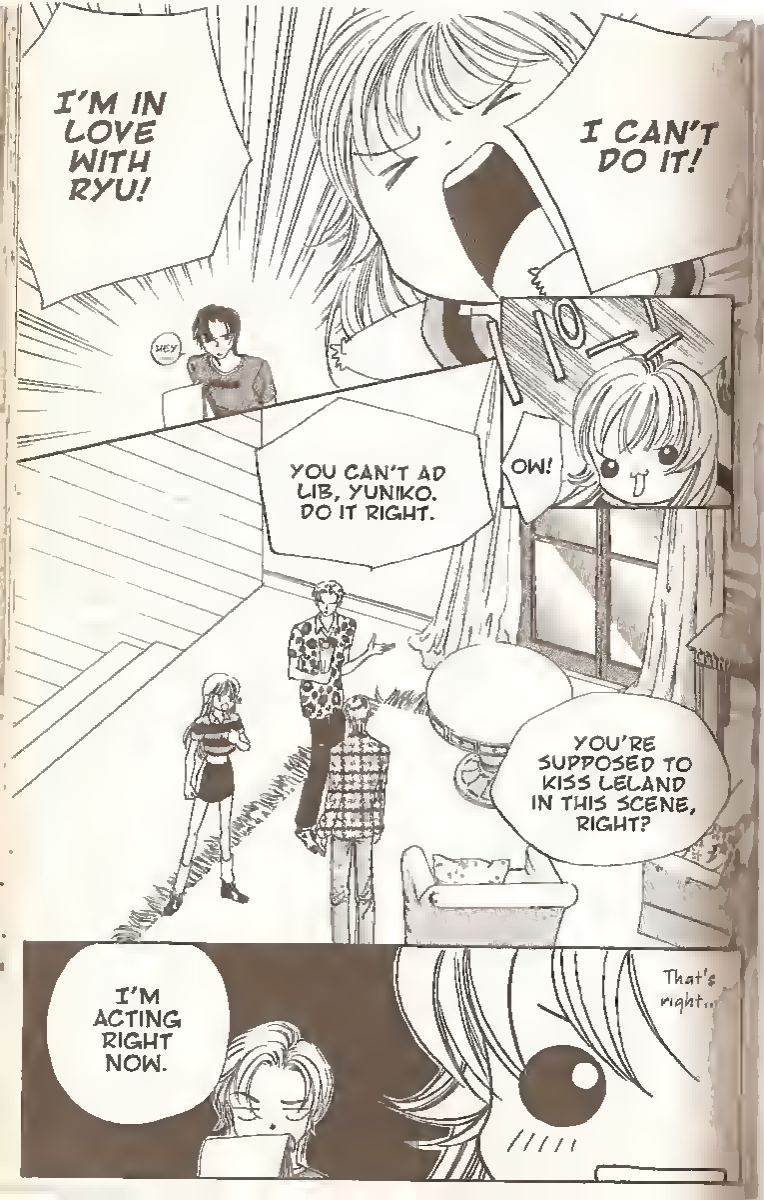

I WON'T LOSE YOU TO RYU #2!
YOU'RE MINE!
Ryu?
RYU! WHAT'S GOING ON?
UH...
UM...
UH..
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
MMMMMFF!
BOB?
GREAT!
HURRY! IT'S YOUR AGENT.
RYU?
IS THAT YOU?

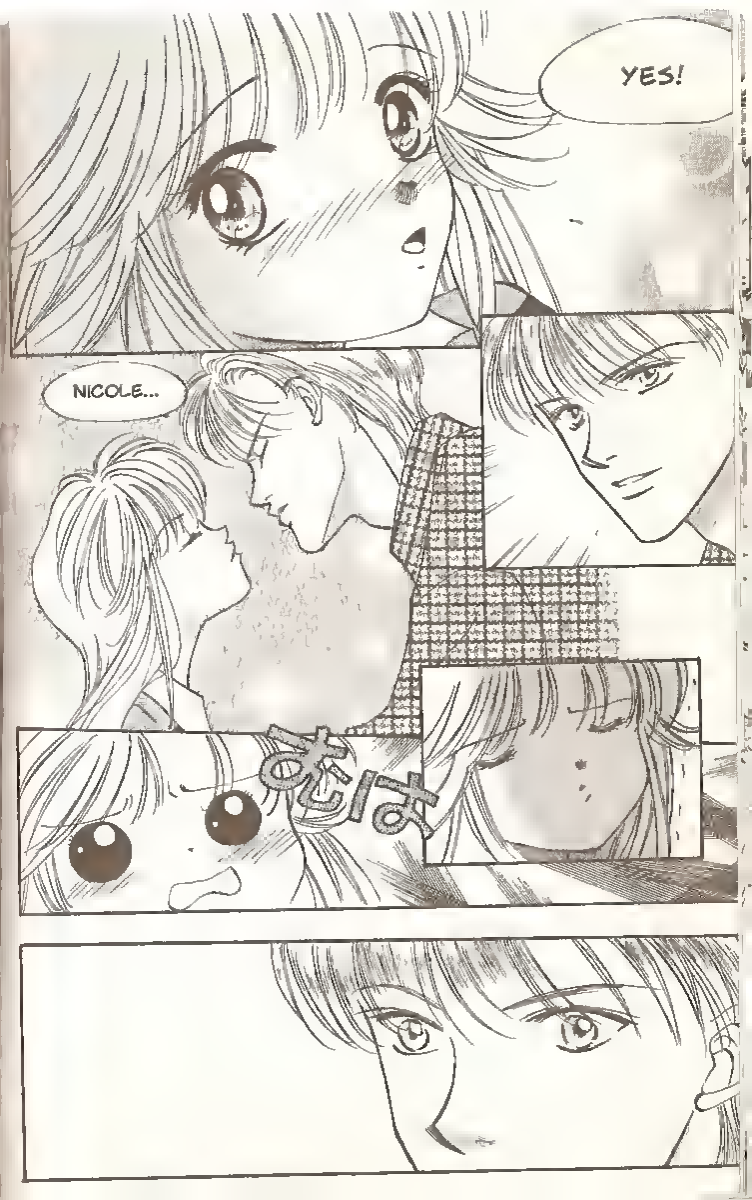

RYU'S MOVIE WILL BE PLAYED WORLDWIDE!!
♫
THAT'S AWESOME!!
I'LL TRY TO ARRANGE YOUR SCHEDULE SO YOU CAN DO BOTH, BUT...
BUT I JUST GOT THE LEADING ROLE FOR THE SCHOOL PLAY!
Oh.
We'll be acting together in a play, and...
Cool! This is the best day of my life!!
..Ryu's also going to be in a movie!
HUH?!
CONGRATULATIONS, RYU!
YOU GOT THE ROLE FOR THE BIG MOVIE!
RYU!!
WAIT, ISN'T THAT...
..THE ONE WHERE YOU WERE THE LAST AUDITION OUT OF 500 PEOPLE?
YES! I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU HAD THE IT FACTOR!
イエース


Ryu's really, really talented!
OH, SURE...
SO, WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER WILL YOU BE PLAYING?
He's really talented!

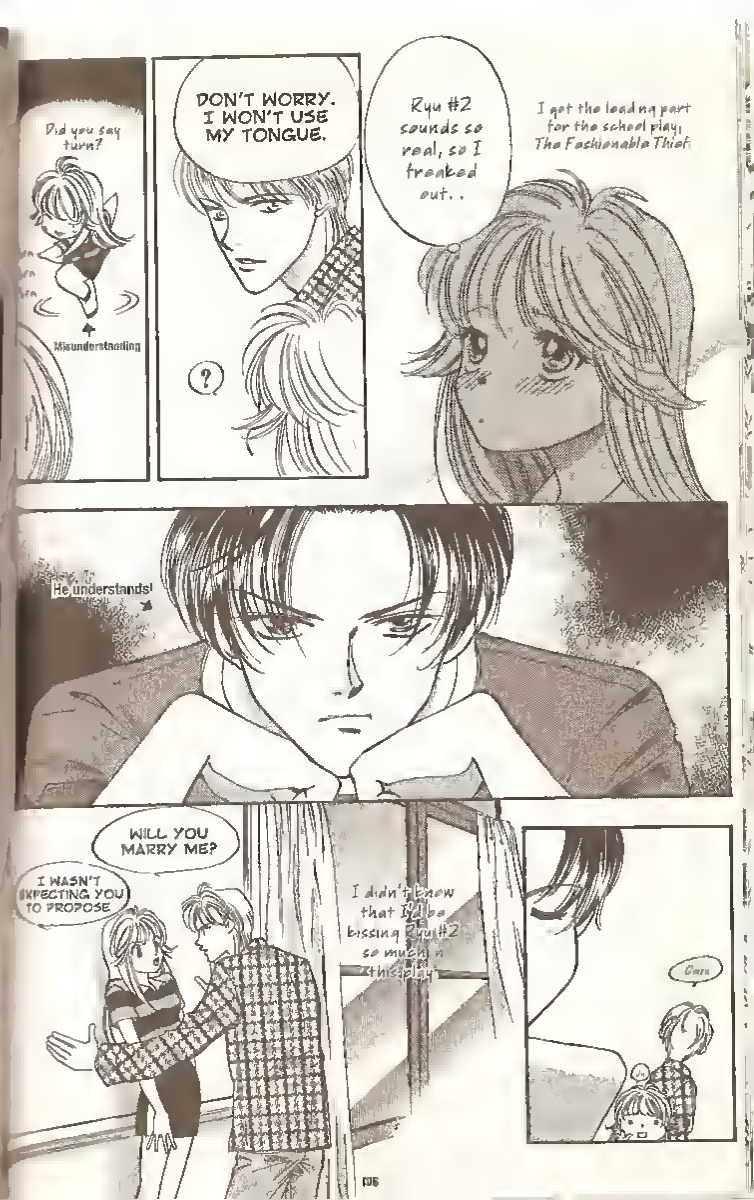
WILL YOU MARRY ME?

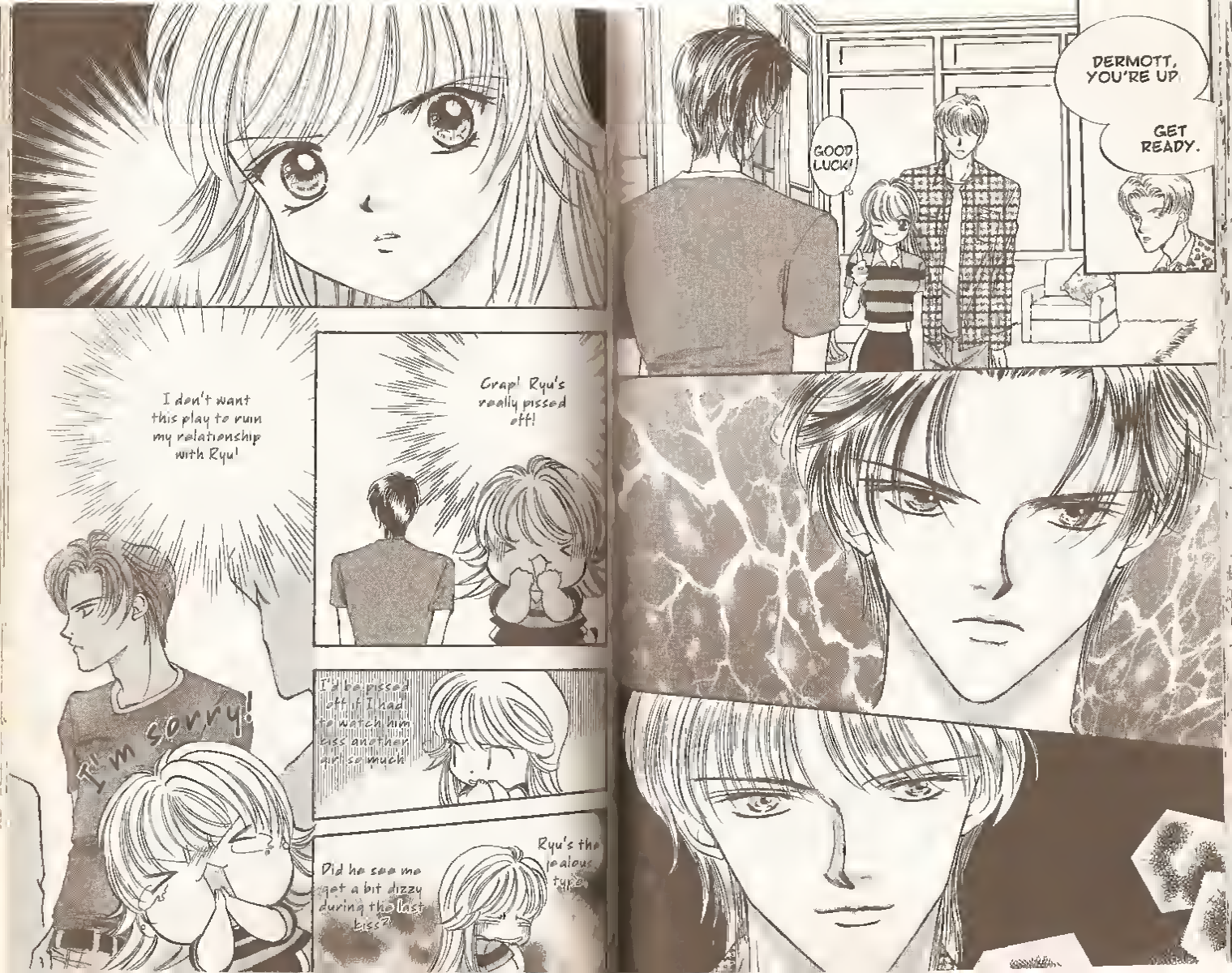


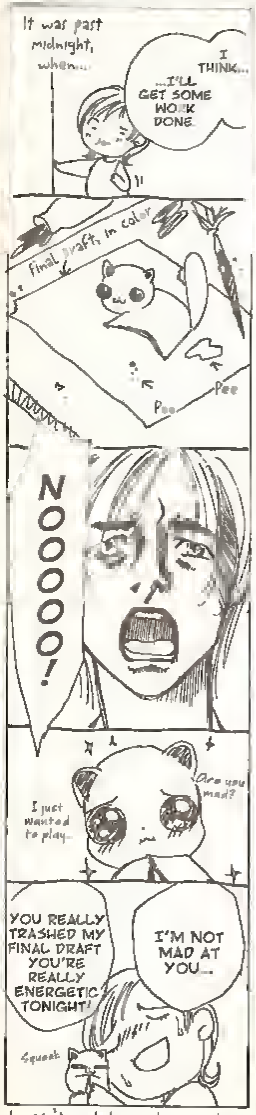

I'M IN LOVE WITH RYU!
I CAN'T DO IT!
HEY
YOU CAN'T AD LIB, YUNIKO. DO IT RIGHT.
OW!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KISS LELAND IN THIS SCENE, RIGHT?
I'M ACTING RIGHT NOW.
That's right...


YES!
NICOLE...
むは

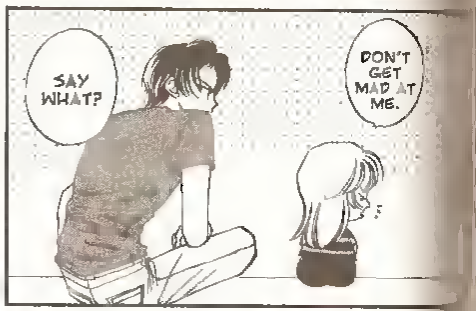
...feel that way.
Ryu #2 promised to give up on me if I won the leading role, but
doesn't
OKAY! THAT'S GOOD!
SHE'S SO LUCKY!
SHE GETS TO KISS GILLIAMS!
Kissing on stage doesn't mean anything to him, huh...
YOUR ENGLISH IS GETTING MUCH BETTER.
That detachment scares me about actors...
トボトボ


Did you say turn?
Misunderstanding
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T USE MY TONGUE.
?
Ryu #2 sounds so real, so I freaked out...
I got the leading part for the school play, The Fashionable Thief.
He understands!
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO PROPOSE
I didn't know that I'd be kissing Ryu #2 so much in this play.
Umm

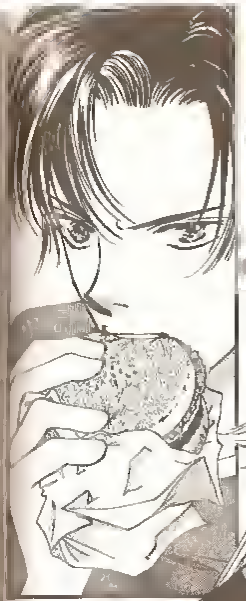

DERMOTT, YOU'RE UP.
GET READY.
GOOD LUCK!
I don't want this play to ruin my relationship with Ryu!
Crap! Ryu's really pissed off!
I'm sorry!
I'd be pissed off if I had to watch him kiss another girl so much!
Did he see me get a bit dizzy during the last kiss?
Ryu's the jealous type.


It was past midnight, when...
I THINK... ...I'LL GET SOME WORK DONE.
Final draft, in color
Pee
Pee
NOOOOO!
Are you mad?
I just wanted to play.
YOU REALLY TRASHED MY FINAL DRAFT YOU'RE REALLY ENERGETIC TONIGHT!
I'M NOT MAD AT YOU...
Squeak
I wasn't mad. I was depressed.

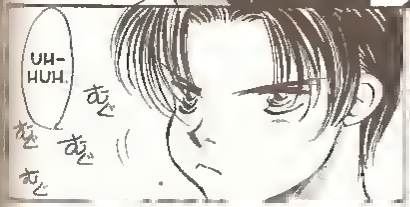
MAYBE.


SAY WHAT?
DON'T GET MAD AT ME.

NEVER-MIND.



I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I'D BE KISSING HIM SO MUCH!


UH-HUH.
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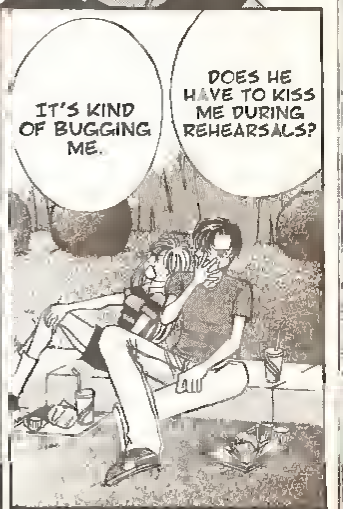
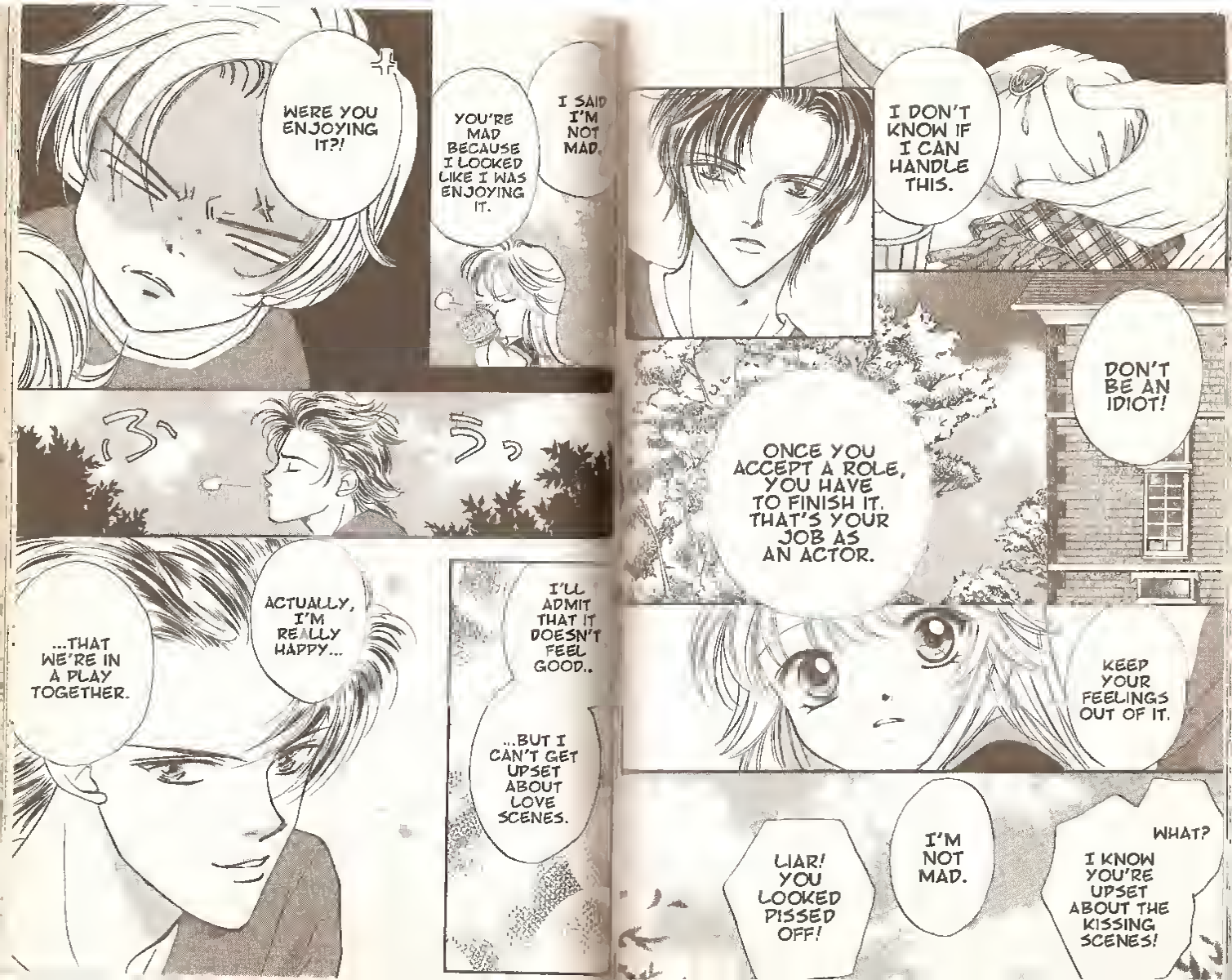
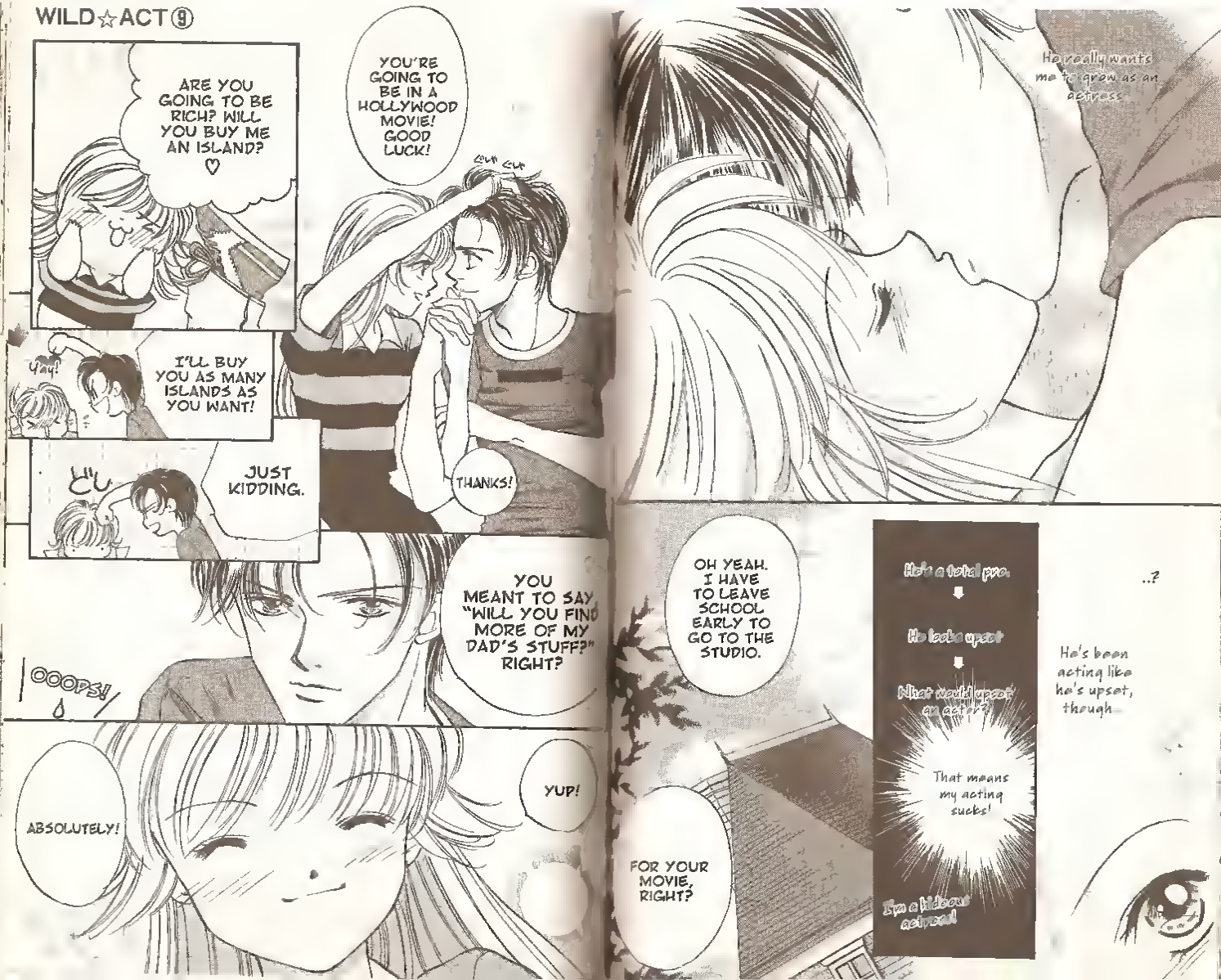
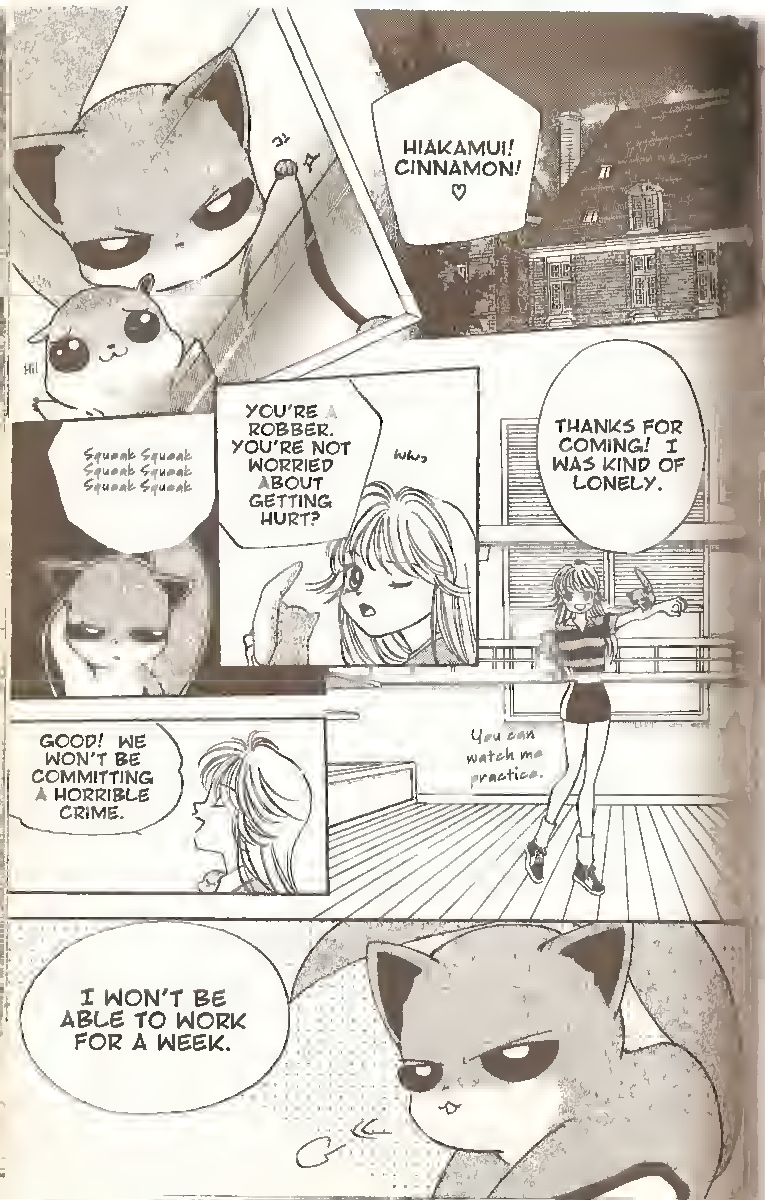
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH, RIGHT?
RYU, YOU HAD TO KISS PEOPLE THAT YOU DIDN'T LIKE FOR WORK, RIGHT?

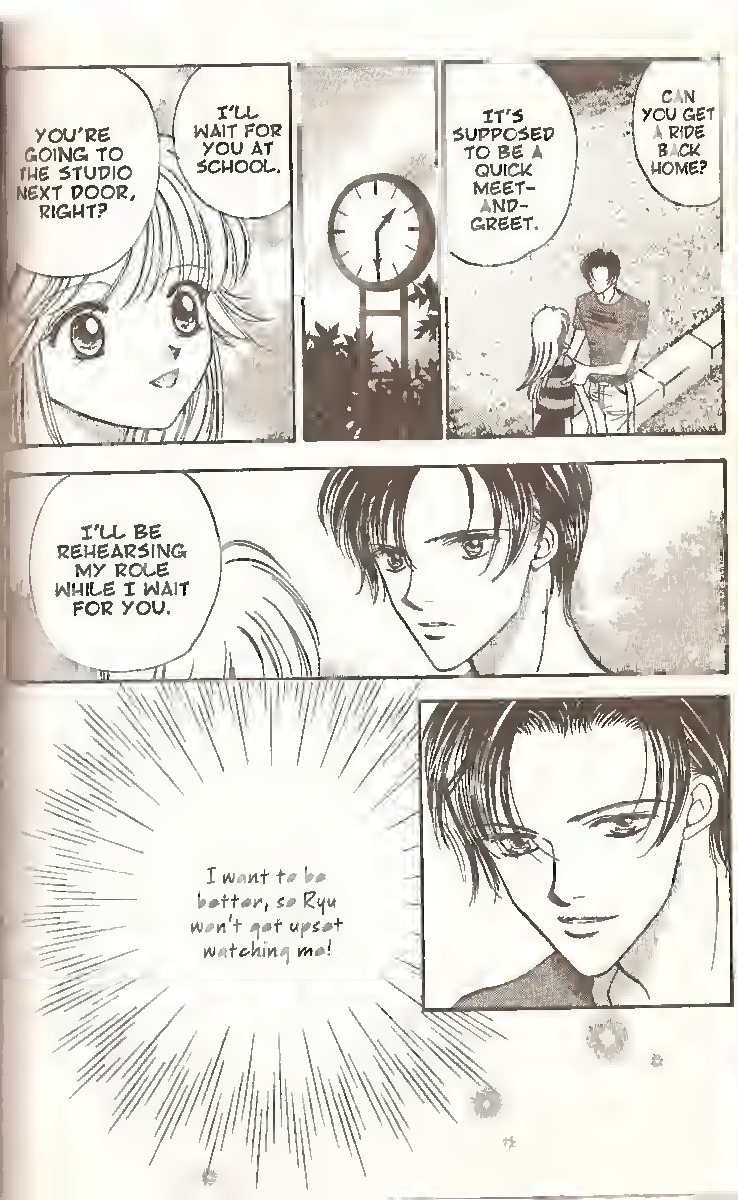

IT'S KIND OF BUGGING ME.
DOES HE HAVE TO KISS ME DURING REHEARSALS?

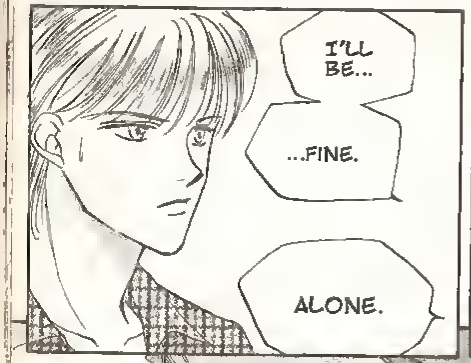

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HANDLE THIS.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
ONCE YOU ACCEPT A ROLE, YOU HAVE TO FINISH IT. THAT'S YOUR JOB AS AN ACTOR.
KEEP YOUR FEELINGS OUT OF IT.
WHAT?
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT THE KISSING SCENES!
I'M NOT MAD.
LIAR! YOU LOOKED PISSED OFF!
I'LL ADMIT THAT IT DOESN'T FEEL GOOD..
...BUT I CAN'T GET UPSET ABOUT LOVE SCENES.
ACTUALLY, I'M REALLY HAPPY...
...THAT WE'RE IN A PLAY TOGETHER.
WERE YOU ENJOYING IT?!
YOU'RE MAD BECAUSE I LOOKED LIKE I WAS ENJOYING IT.
I SAID I'M NOT MAD.

GOTCHA!
He's a professional. He would know...
Keep your feelin out of it.
I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.
JUST FOCUS ON DOING YOUR BEST, ALL RIGHT?
How embarrassing! Everyone else can handle these things...
HI YAAA!
WA-TAAAH!
HIYA!


ARE YOU GOING TO BE RICH? WILL YOU BUY ME AN ISLAND? ♡
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE! GOOD LUCK!
GULP GULP
Yay!
I'LL BUY YOU AS MANY ISLANDS AS YOU WANT!
JUST KIDDING.
THANKS!
OOOPS!
YOU MEANT TO SAY "WILL YOU FIND MORE OF MY DAD'S STUFF?" RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY!
YUP!
He really wants me to grow as an actress
OH YEAH. I HAVE TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY TO GO TO THE STUDIO.
FOR YOUR MOVIE, RIGHT?
He's a total pro.
He looks upset
What would upset an actor?
That means my acting sucks!
I'm a hideous actress!
..?
He's been acting like he's upset, though...

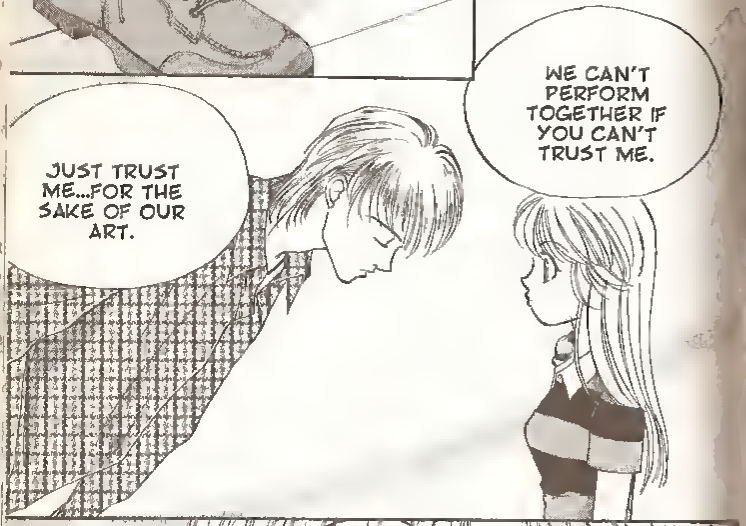

HIAKAMUI! CINNAMON! ♡
Squeak Squeak Squeak Squeak Squeak Squeak
YOU'RE A ROBBER. YOU'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT GETTING HURT?
Wha...
THANKS FOR COMING! I WAS KIND OF LONELY.
You can watch me practice.
GOOD! WE WON'T BE COMMITTING A HORRIBLE CRIME.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK FOR A WEEK.

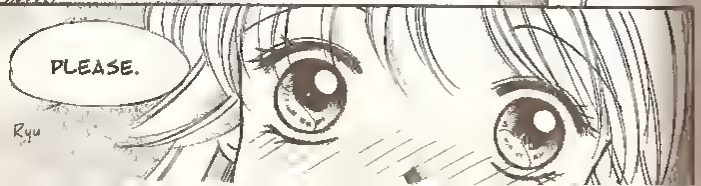

YOU'RE GOING TO THE STUDIO NEXT DOOR, RIGHT?
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT SCHOOL.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A QUICK MEET-AND-GREET.
CAN YOU GET A RIDE BACK HOME?
I'LL BE REHEARSING MY ROLE WHILE I WAIT FOR YOU.
I want to be better, so Ryu won't get upset watching me!

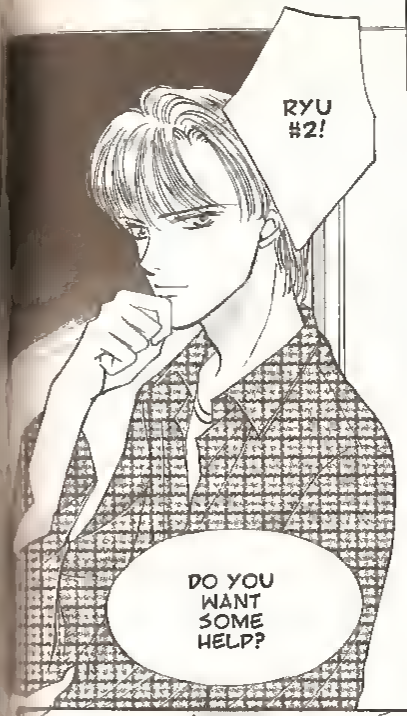

I'LL BE...
...FINE.
ALONE.

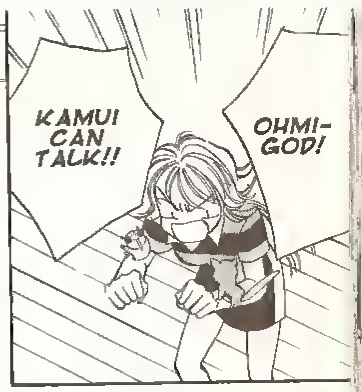
He wants to rehearse with me!
NO...
...THANKS!

YUNIKO...


JUST TRUST ME...FOR THE SAKE OF OUR ART.
WE CAN'T PERFORM TOGETHER IF YOU CAN'T TRUST ME.

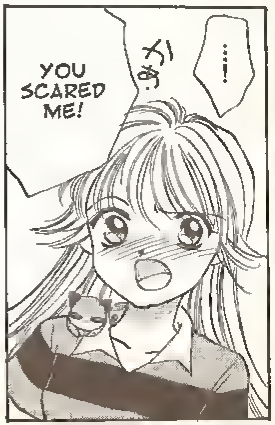

PLEASE.
Ryu

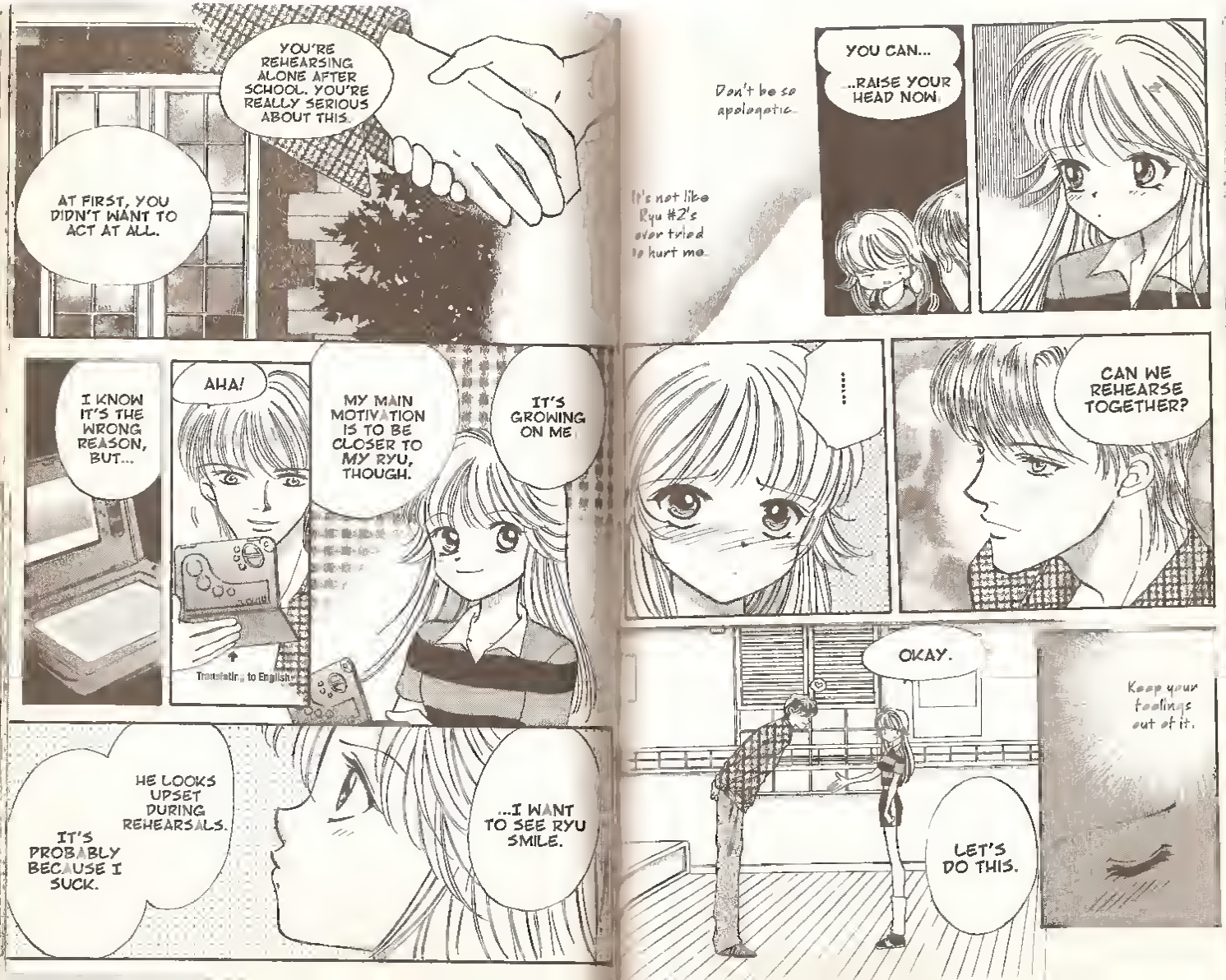

RYU #2!
DO YOU WANT SOME HELP?

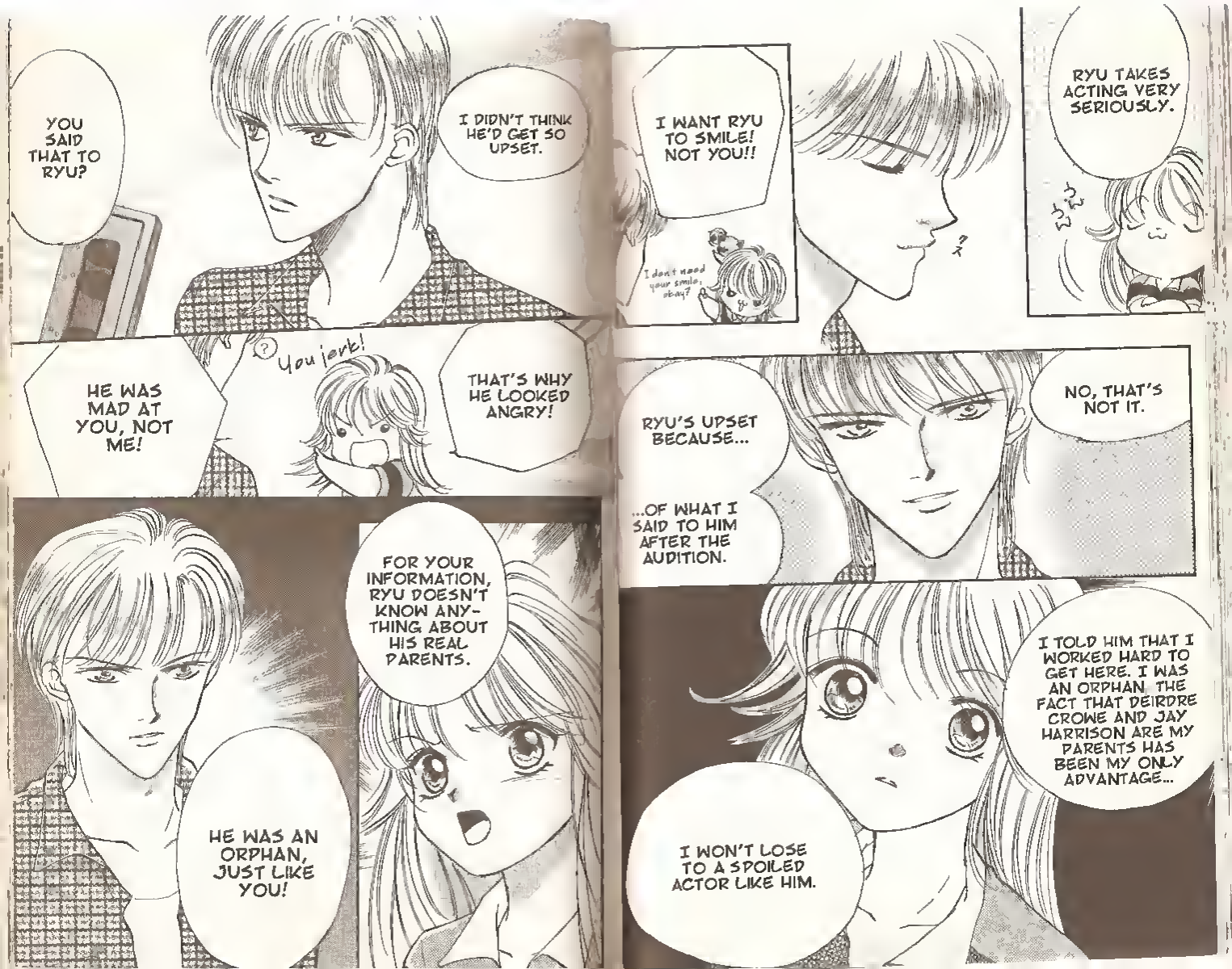

KAMUI CAN TALK!!
OHMI-GOD!

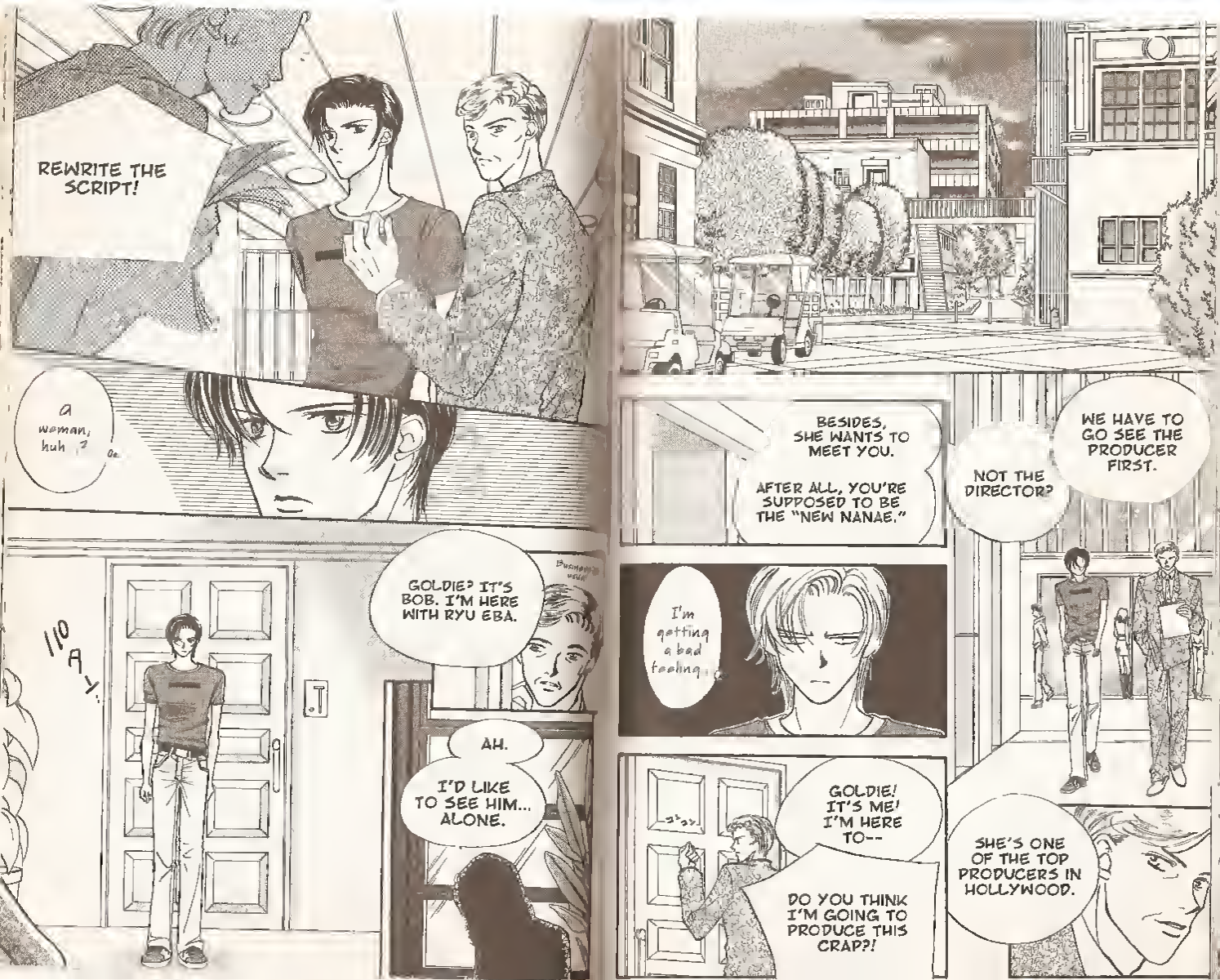
I KNEW YOU WERE SMART, BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD TALK!

IT'S MUCH BETTER IF YOU HAVE A PARTNER.
DON'T BUG ME I NEED TO FOCUS DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

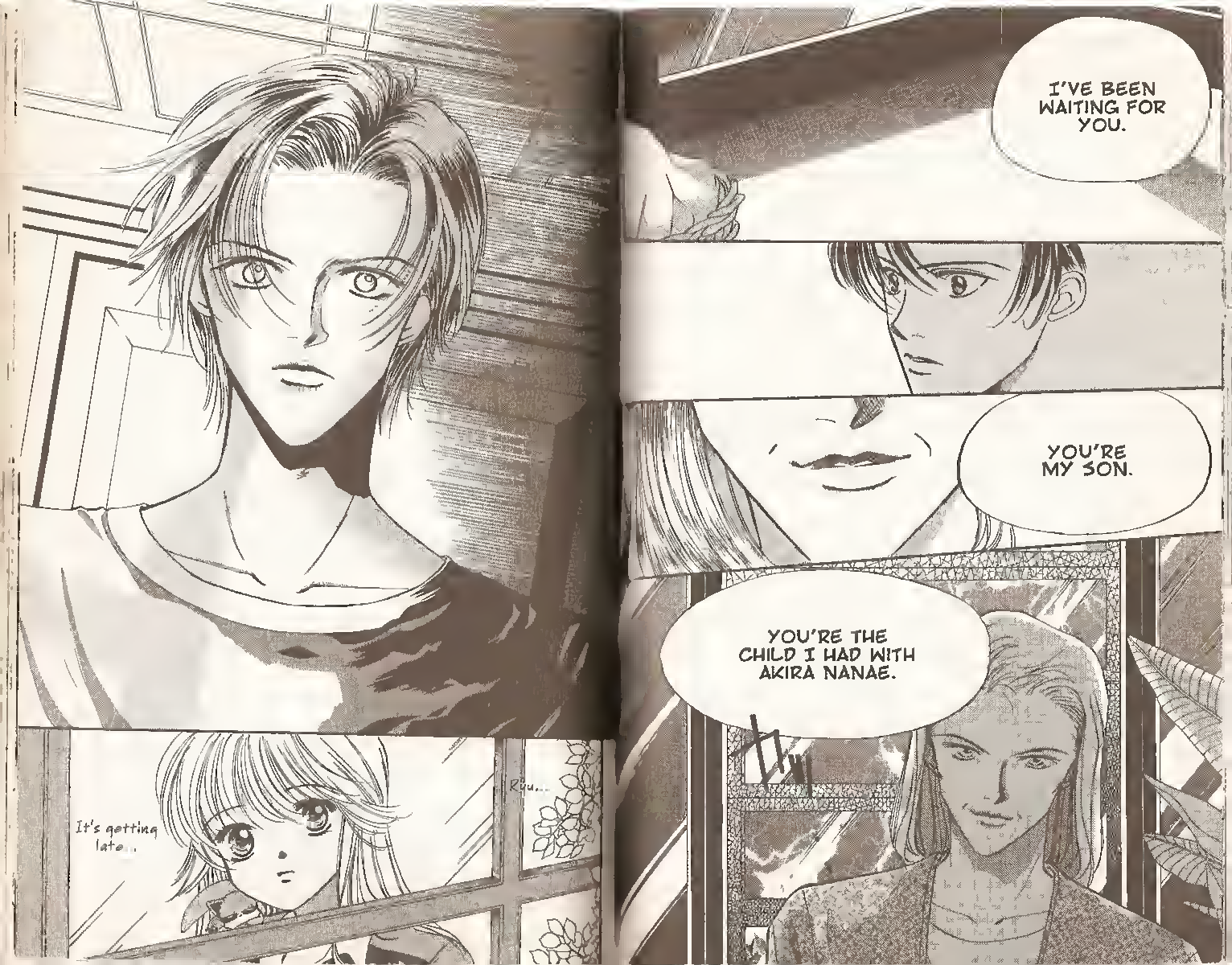

YOU SCARED ME!
!

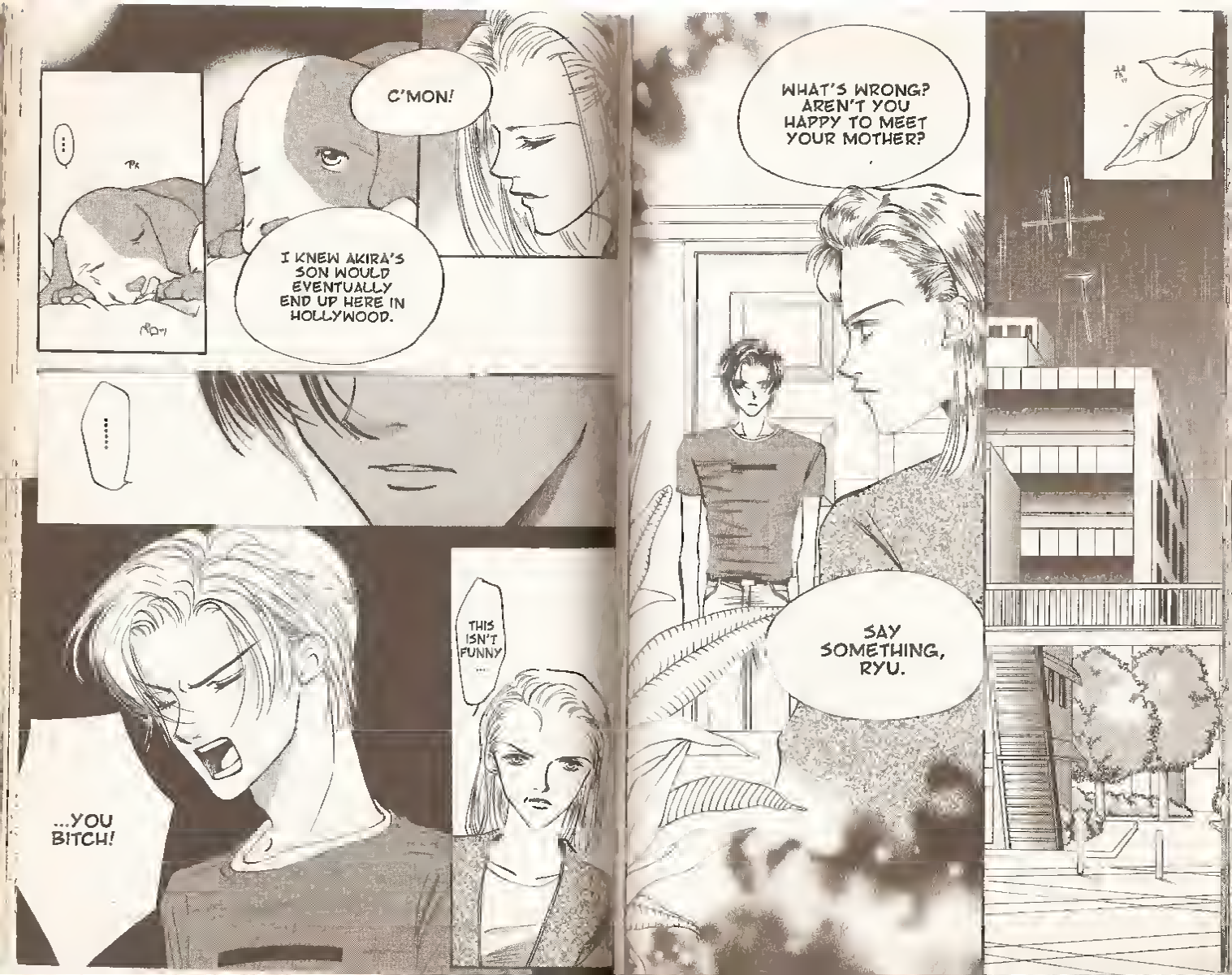

YOU'RE REHEARSING ALONE AFTER SCHOOL. YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
AT FIRST, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO ACT AT ALL.
I KNOW IT'S THE WRONG REASON, BUT...
AHA!
Translating to English...
MY MAIN MOTIVATION IS TO BE CLOSER TO MY RYU, THOUGH.
IT'S GROWING ON ME
HE LOOKS UPSET DURING REHEARSALS.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I SUCK.
...I WANT TO SEE RYU SMILE.
Don't be so apologetic.
It's not like Ryu #2's ever tried to hurt me.
YOU CAN...
...RAISE YOUR HEAD NOW.
.....
CAN WE REHEARSE TOGETHER?
OKAY.
LET'S DO THIS.
Keep your feelings out of it.

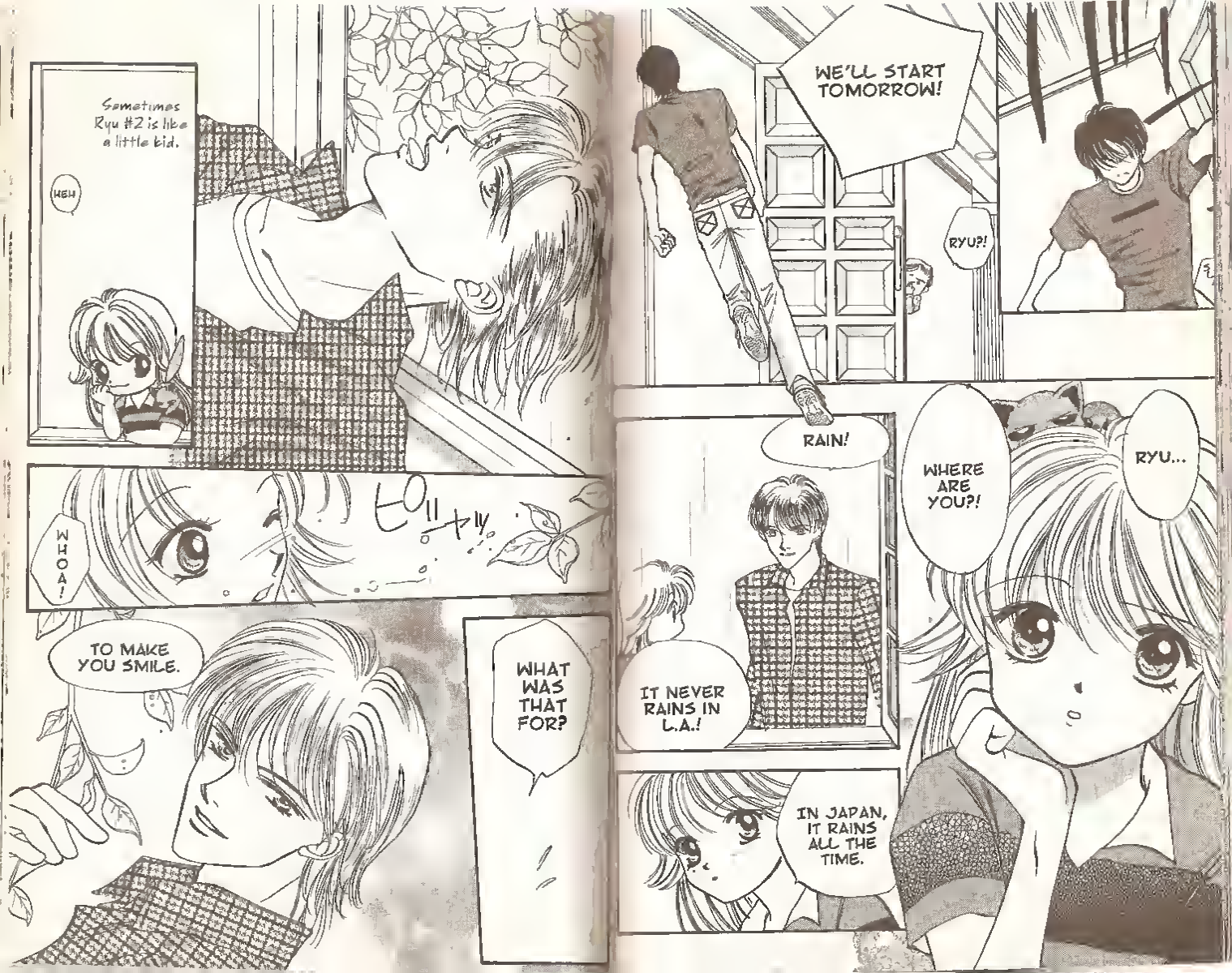

YOU SAID THAT TO RYU?
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D GET SO UPSET.
HE WAS MAD AT YOU, NOT ME!
You jerk!
THAT'S WHY HE LOOKED ANGRY!
I WANT RYU TO SMILE! NOT YOU!!
I don't need your smile, okay?
RYU TAKES ACTING VERY SERIOUSLY.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
RYU'S UPSET BECAUSE...
...OF WHAT I SAID TO HIM AFTER THE AUDITION.
I TOLD HIM THAT I WORKED HARD TO GET HERE. I WAS AN ORPHAN. THE FACT THAT DEIRDRE CROWE AND JAY HARRISON ARE MY PARENTS HAS BEEN MY ONLY ADVANTAGE...
I WON'T LOSE TO A SPOILED ACTOR LIKE HIM.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, RYU DOESN'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT HIS REAL PARENTS.
HE WAS AN ORPHAN, JUST LIKE YOU!

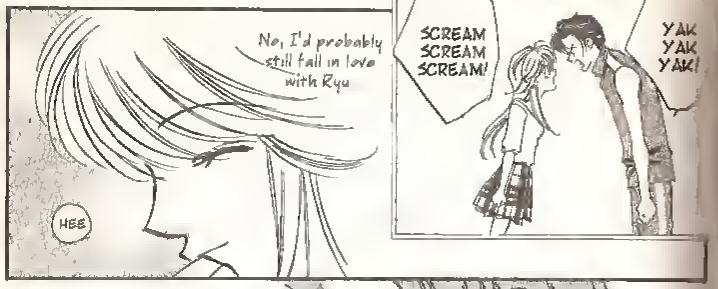

REWRITE THE SCRIPT!
A woman, huh?
BESIDES, SHE WANTS TO MEET YOU.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE "NEW NANAE."
NOT THE DIRECTOR?
WE HAVE TO GO SEE THE PRODUCER FIRST.
I'm getting a bad feeling...
SHE'S ONE OF THE TOP PRODUCERS IN HOLLYWOOD.
GOLDIE! IT'S ME! I'M HERE TO--
DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO PRODUCE THIS CRAP?!
GOLDIE? IT'S BOB. I'M HERE WITH RYU EBA.
AH.
I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM... ALONE.
OKAY.

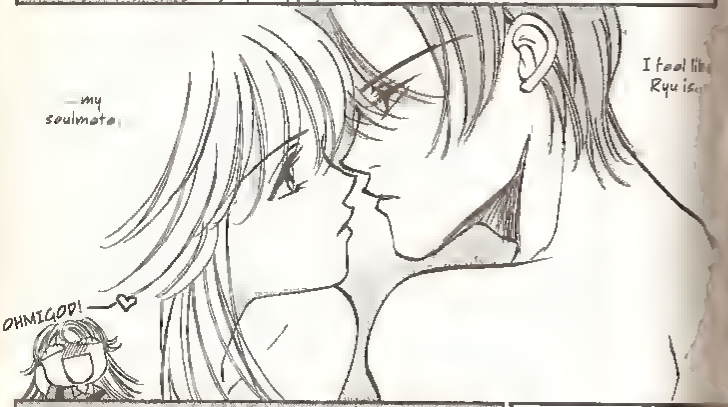
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES.
WHAT'S WRONG?
AKIRA NANAE GOT NAKED REALLY QUICKLY. WELL, THAT WAS 20 YEARS AGO...
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK--?
YOU'RE...
...VERY TALL.
RF
RF
WRF...


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
YOU'RE MY SON.
YOU'RE THE CHILD I HAD WITH AKIRA NANAE.
It's getting late...
Ryu...

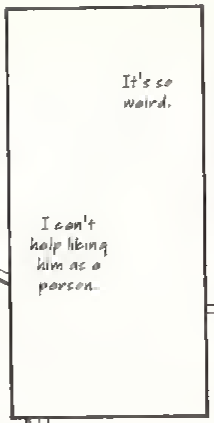

C'MON!
I KNEW AKIRA'S SON WOULD EVENTUALLY END UP HERE IN HOLLYWOOD.
.....
...YOU BITCH!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY ...
WHAT'S WRONG? AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO MEET YOUR MOTHER?
SAY SOMETHING, RYU.

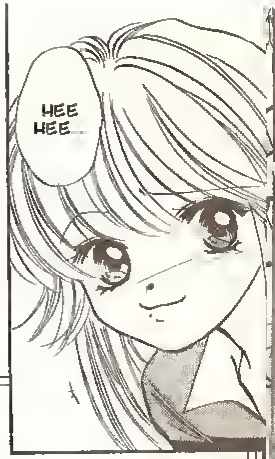

Sometimes Ryu #2 is like a little kid.
HEH
WHOA!
TO MAKE YOU SMILE.
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
WE'LL START TOMORROW!
RYU?!
RAIN!
IT NEVER RAINS IN L.A.!
IN JAPAN, IT RAINS ALL THE TIME.
WHERE ARE YOU?!
RYU...

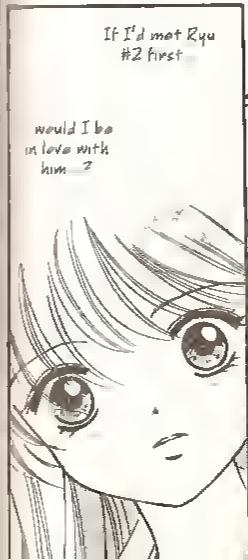

No, I'd probably still fall in love with Ryu
HEE
SCREAM SCREAM SCREAM!
YAK YAK YAK!

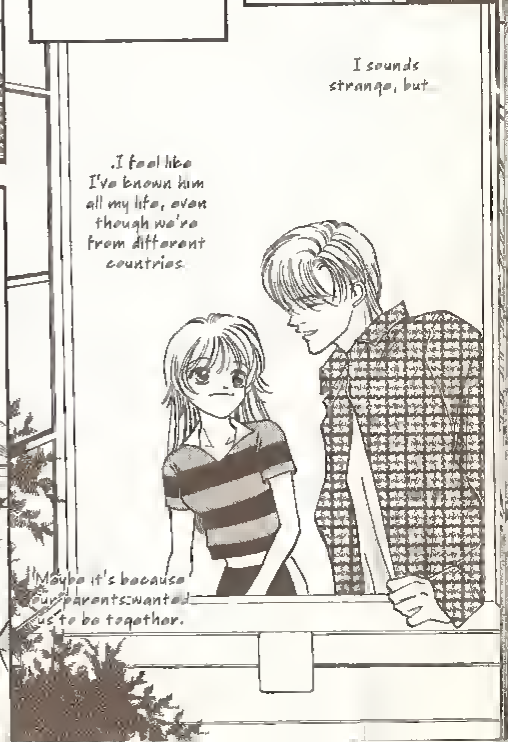

—my soulmate.
I feel like Ryu is—
OHMIGOD!

I WISH I'D MET YOU EARLIER, BEFORE YOU MET RYU.

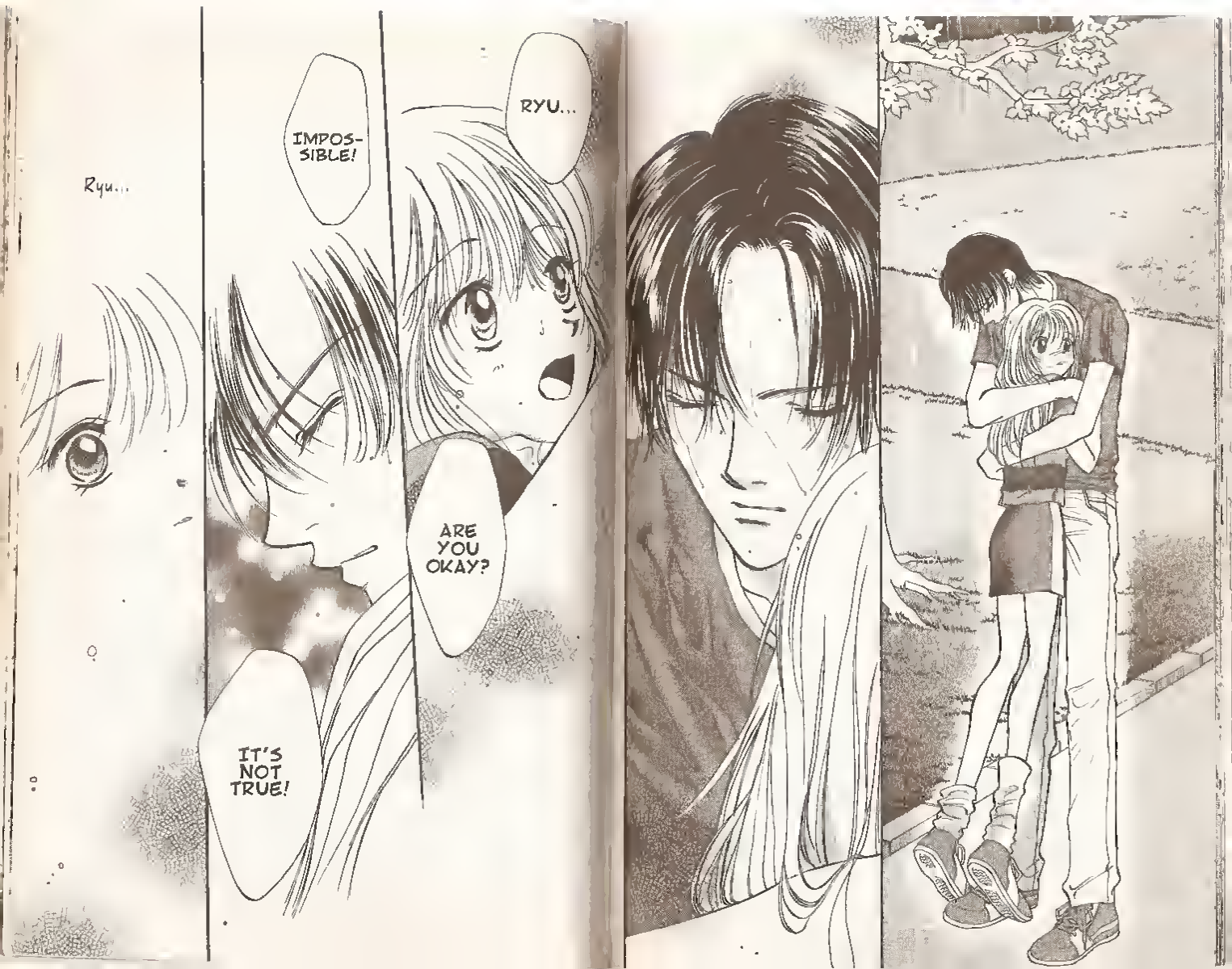

It's so weird.
I can't help liking him as a person.

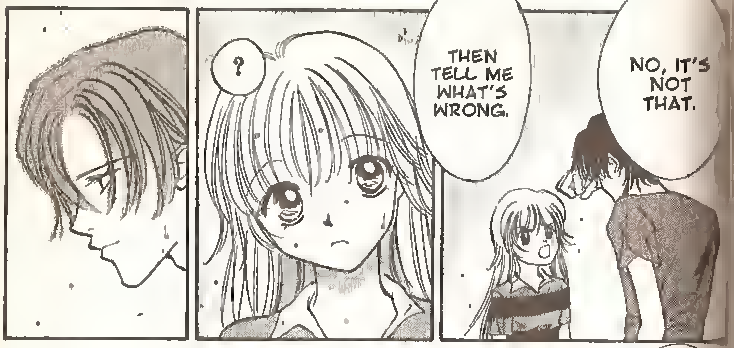

HEE HEE

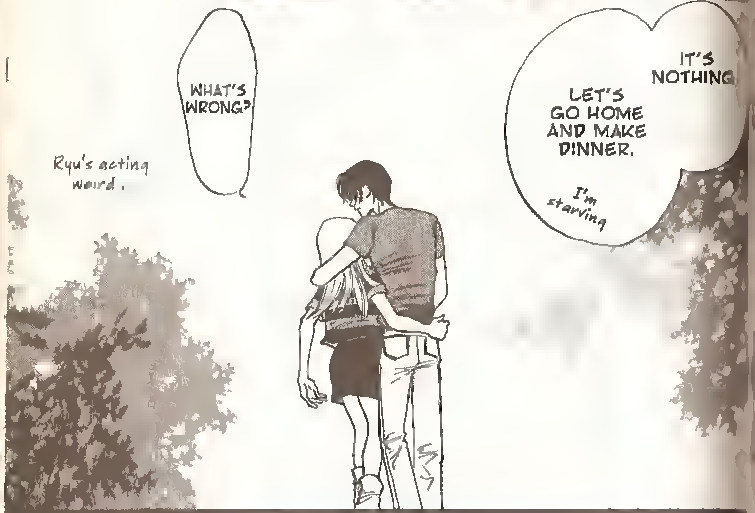

If I'd met Ryu #2 first
would I be in love with him—?

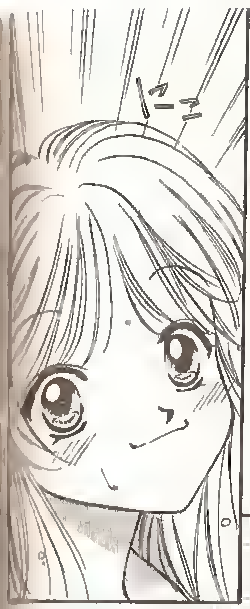

I sounds strange, but
I feel like I've known him all my life, even though we're from different countries.
Maybe it's because our parents wanted us to be together.

I WAS JUST REHEARSING!
YOU TOLD ME TO KEEP MY FEELINGS OUT OF IT, RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME..
YUNIKO.
RYU! HEY!!
WAIT FOR ME!
What's wrong with him?
STOP! RYU!
Is he mad because I was with Ryu #2?
RYU!
YOU'RE LATE! I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING!
Over here!

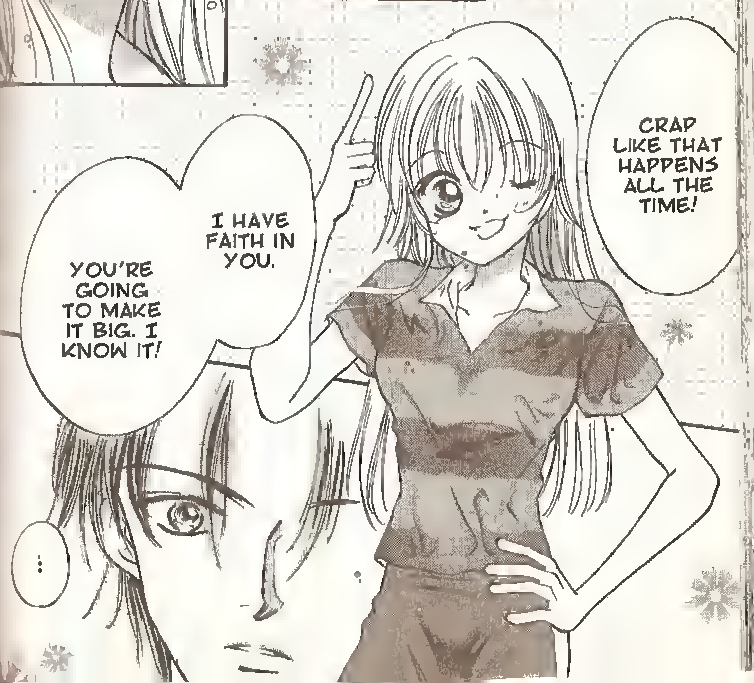

Ryu...
IMPOS-
SIBLE!
RYU...
ARE
YOU
OKAY?
IT'S
NOT
TRUE!

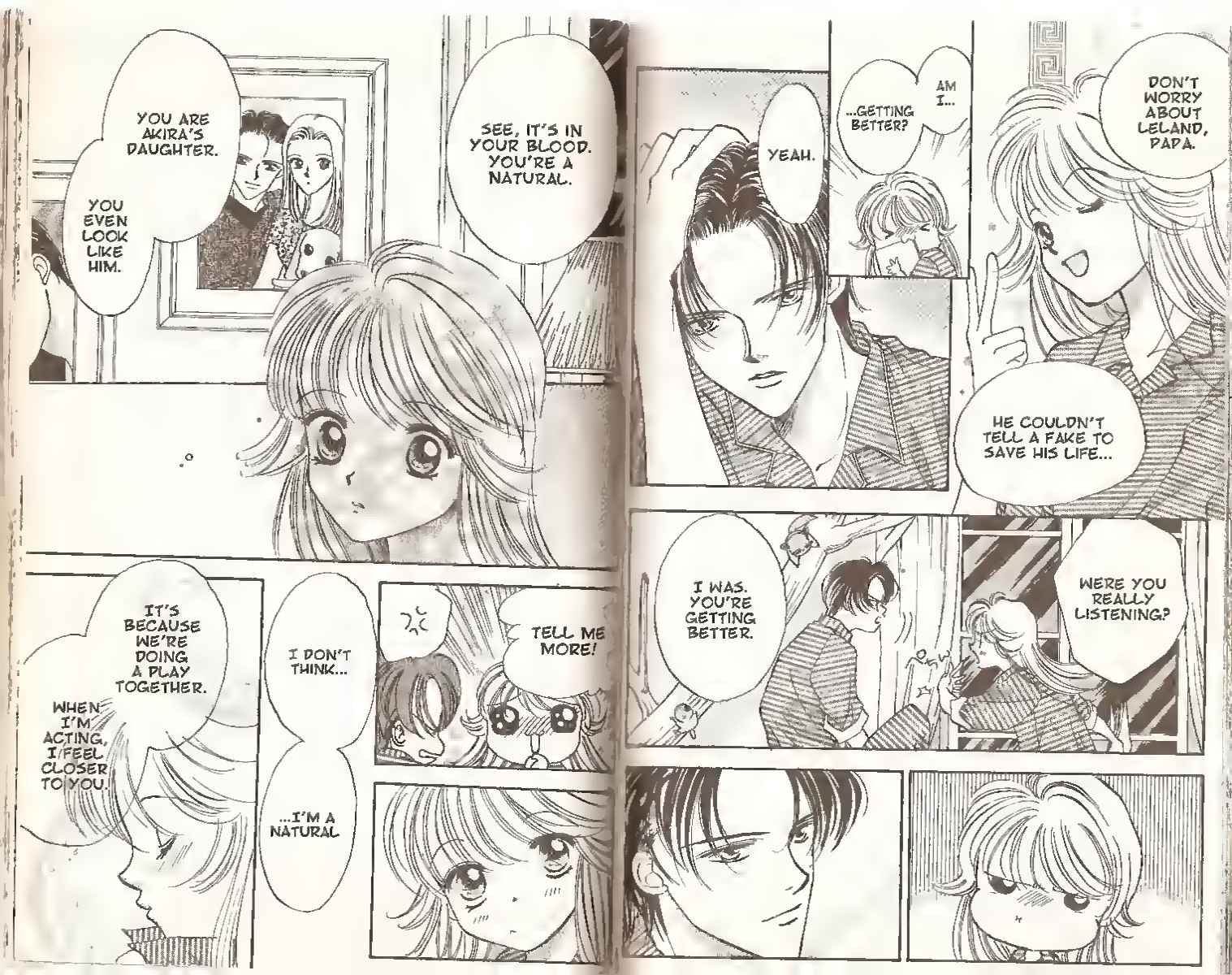

?
THEN TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.


WHAT'S WRONG?
Ryu's acting weird.
IT'S NOTHING.
LET'S GO HOME AND MAKE DINNER.
I'm starving

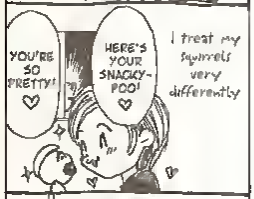


YUNIKO...
DID THE JOB FALL THROUGH?
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE STUDIO?

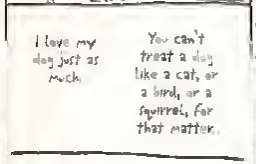

CRAP LIKE THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
I HAVE FAITH IN YOU.
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT BIG. I KNOW IT!
...

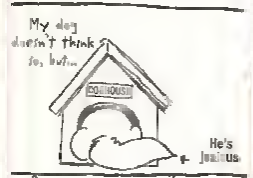

YOU ARE AKIRA'S DAUGHTER.
YOU EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM.
SEE, IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD. YOU'RE A NATURAL.
YEAH.
AM I...
...GETTING BETTER?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT LELAND, PAPA.
HE COULDN'T TELL A FAKE TO SAVE HIS LIFE...
I WAS. YOU'RE GETTING BETTER.
WERE YOU REALLY LISTENING?
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE DOING A PLAY TOGETHER.
WHEN I'M ACTING, I FEEL CLOSER TO YOU.
I DON'T THINK...
...I'M A NATURAL
TELL ME MORE!

GO AHEAD!
WAIT!
We have an outside dog.
General Rie


YOU'RE SO PRETTY! ♡
HERE'S YOUR SNACKY-POO! ♡
I treat my squirrels very differently

My dog hates the squirrels.
GRRR

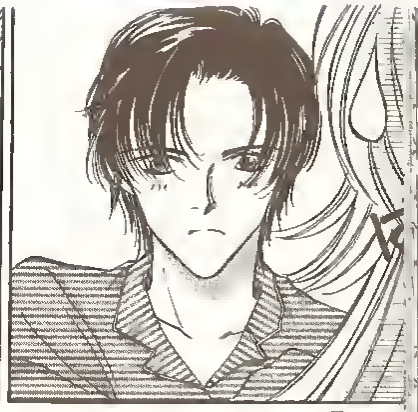

I love my dog just as much.
You can't treat a dog like a cat, or a bird, or a squirrel, for that matter.

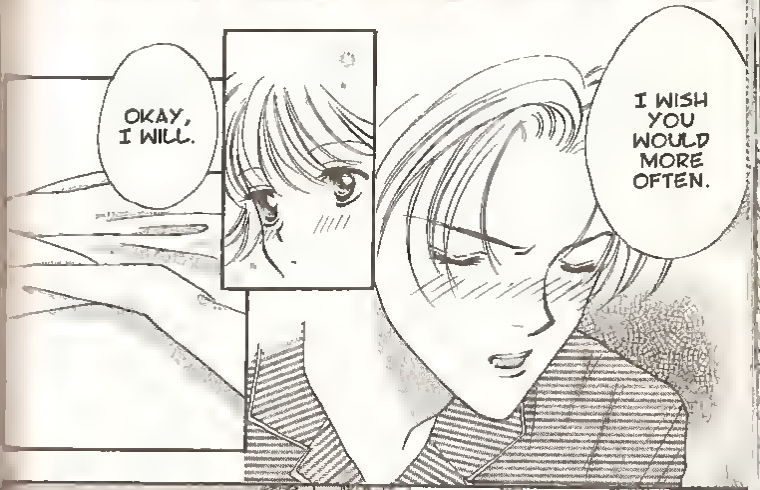

My dog doesn't think so, but...
DOGHOUSE
He's jealous.

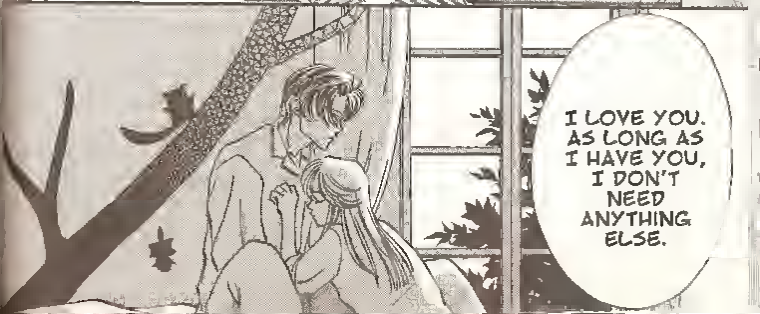
WOOF!
I'LL BUY YOU A TREAT ON THE WAY BACK!
LET'S GO FOR A WALK!
He's so cute!
You'll get a bath tomorrow!

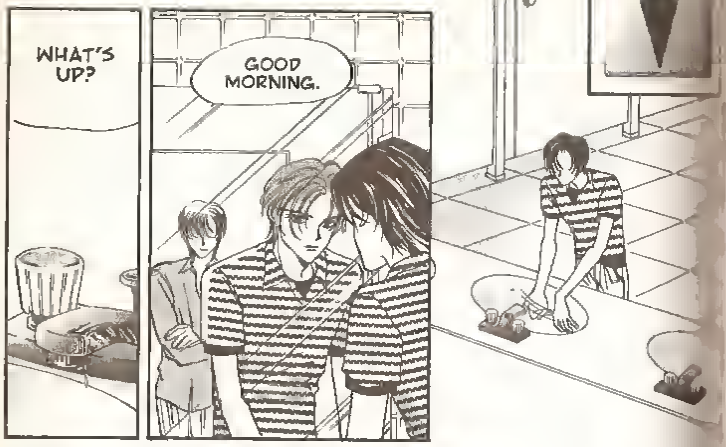
YUNIKO...

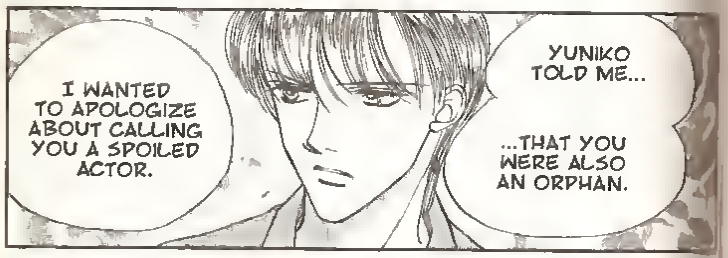
I USUALLY DON'T SAY MUSHY STUFF LIKE THAT!

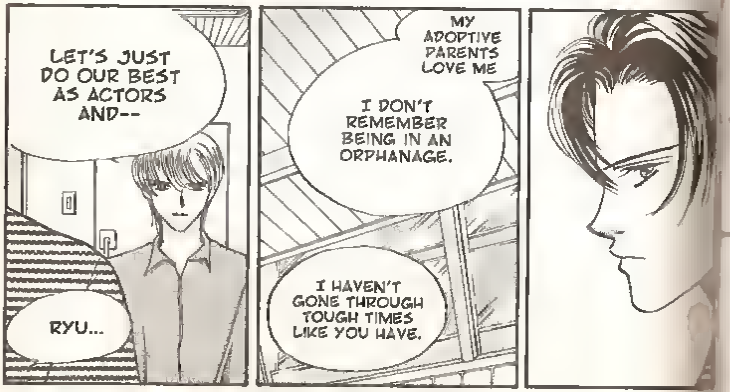


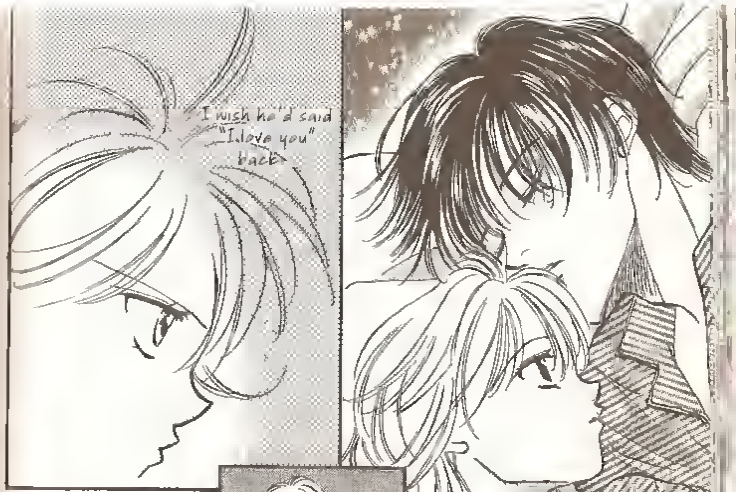

OKAY, I WILL.
I WISH YOU WOULD MORE OFTEN.

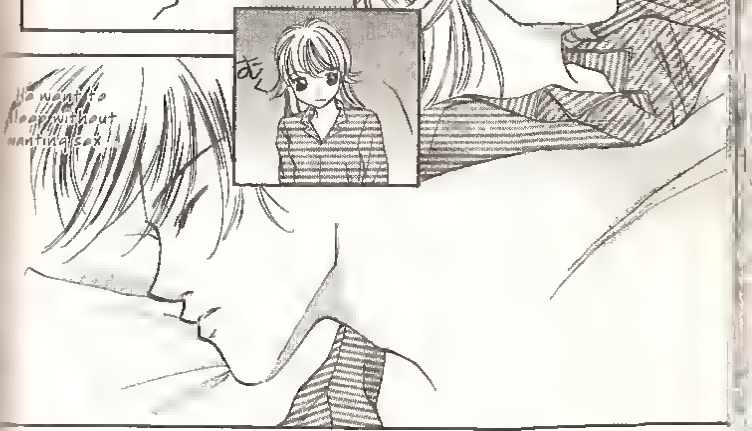

I LOVE YOU. AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE.

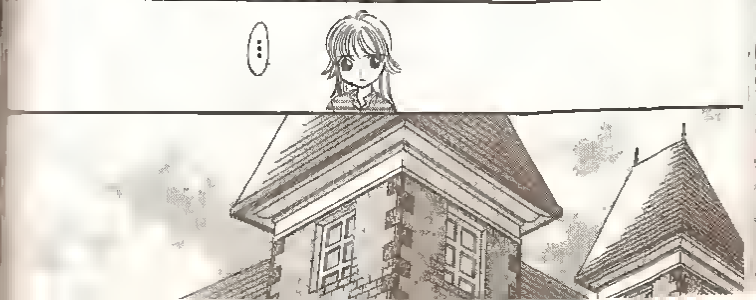

WHAT'S UP?
GOOD MORNING.

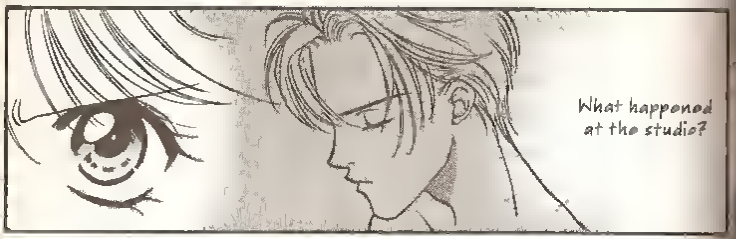

I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT CALLING YOU A SPOILED ACTOR.
YUNIKO TOLD ME...
...THAT YOU WERE ALSO AN ORPHAN.

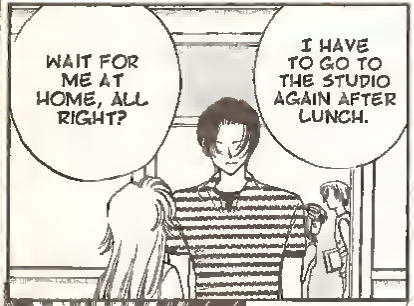

LET'S JUST DO OUR BEST AS ACTORS AND--
RYU...
I DON'T REMEMBER BEING IN AN ORPHANAGE.
MY ADOPTIVE PARENTS LOVE ME
I HAVEN'T GONE THROUGH TOUGH TIMES LIKE YOU HAVE.


I wish he'd said "I love you" back.

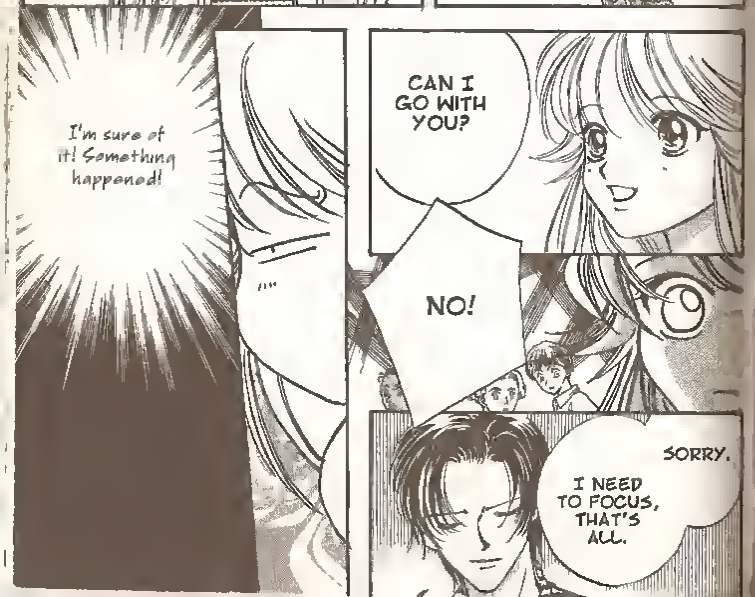

He wants to sleep with me without wanting sex?!



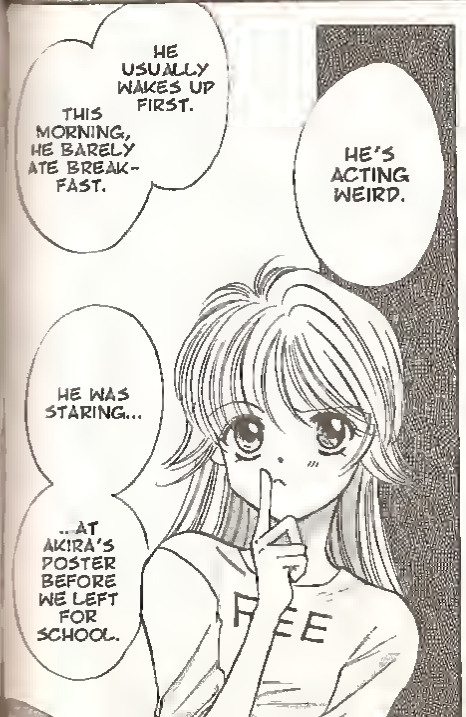

What happened at the studio?


WAIT FOR ME AT HOME, ALL RIGHT?
I HAVE TO GO TO THE STUDIO AGAIN AFTER LUNCH.

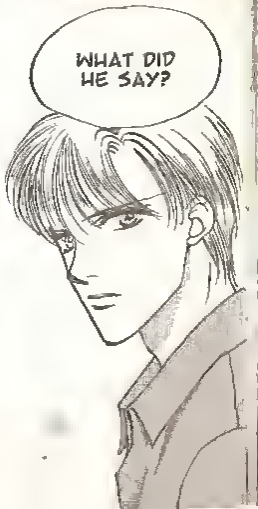
I can't believe he's not talking to me!

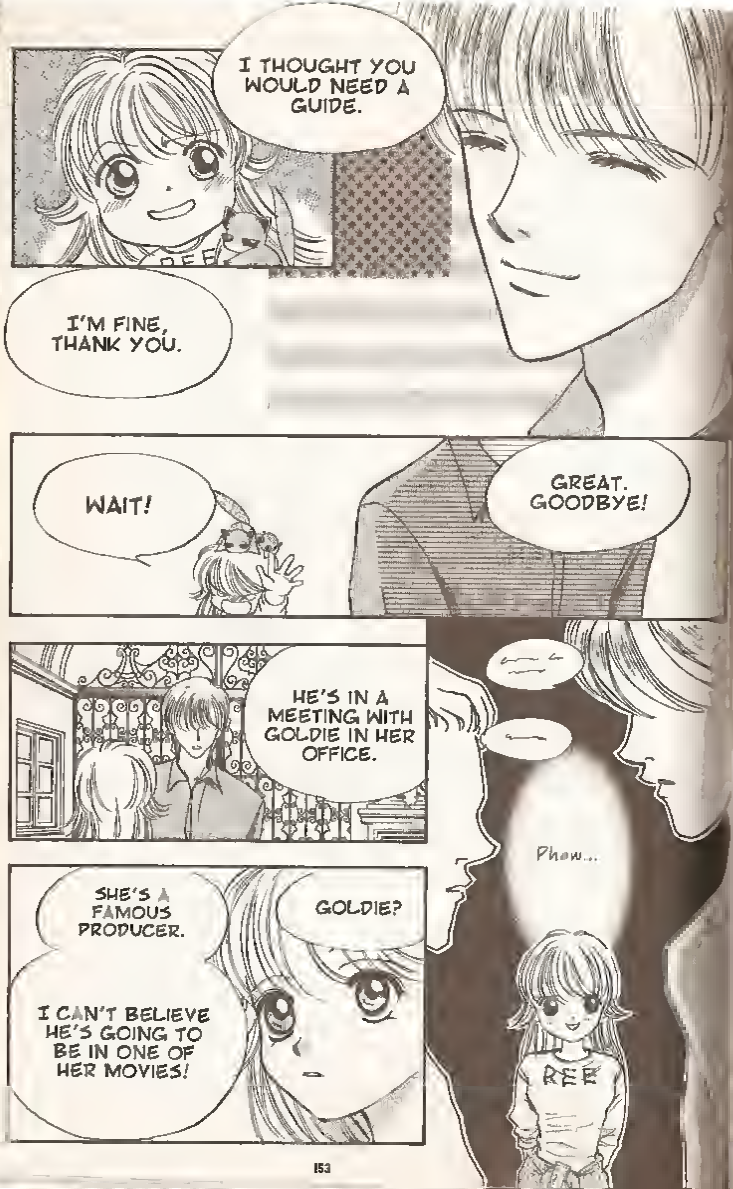

I'm sure of it! Something happened!
CAN I GO WITH YOU?
NO!
SORRY.
I NEED TO FOCUS, THAT'S ALL.

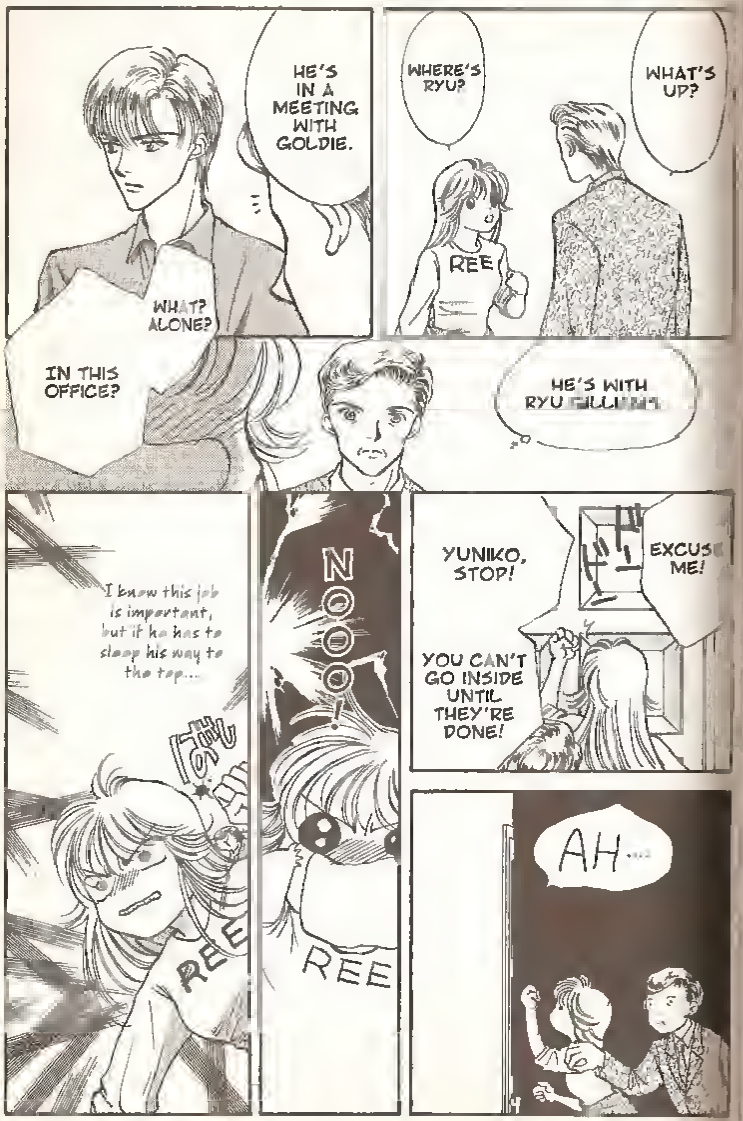
YOU MIGHT WIN THIS ONE.
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO LOVE YUNIKO.

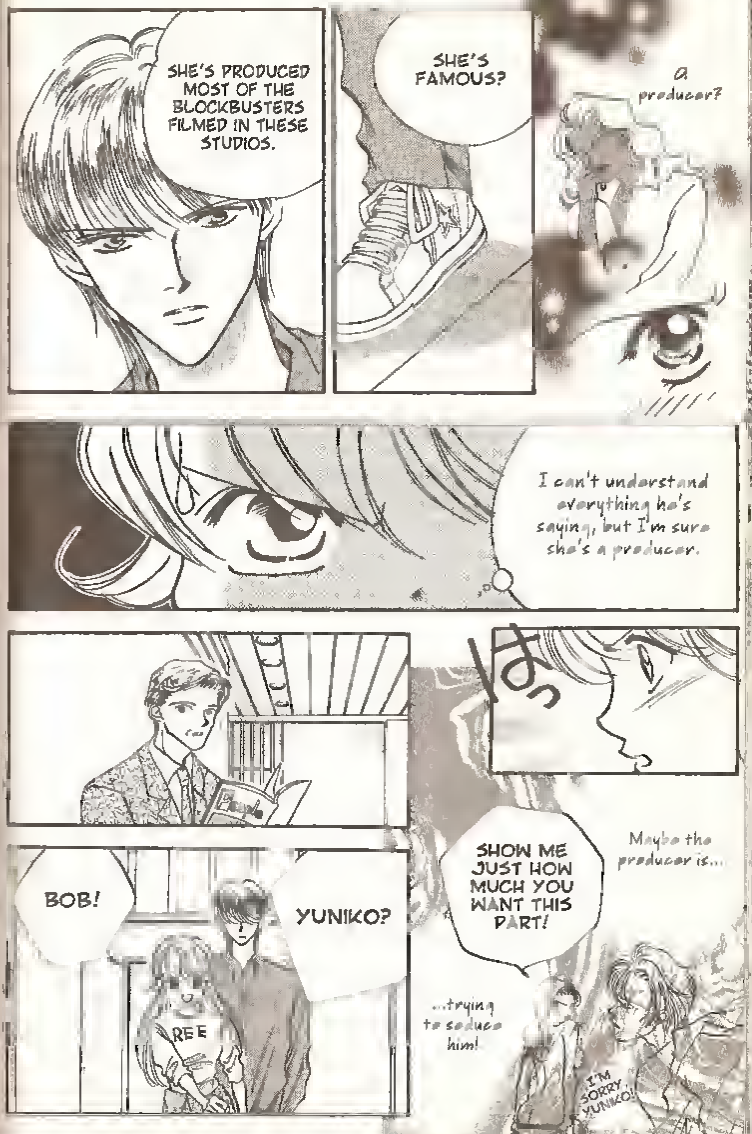

HE USUALLY WAKES UP FIRST.
THIS MORNING, HE BARELY ATE BREAK-FAST.
HE'S ACTING WEIRD.
HE WAS STARING...
...AT AKIRA'S POSTER BEFORE WE LEFT FOR SCHOOL.

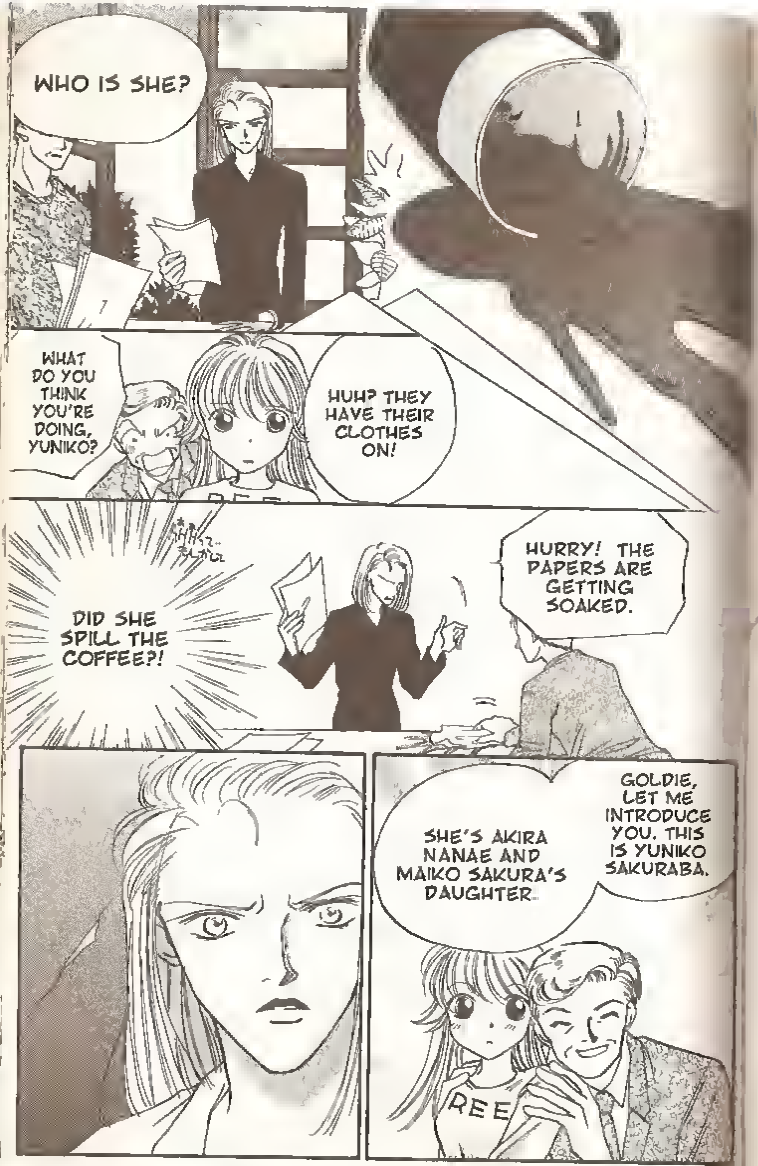
WHAT?

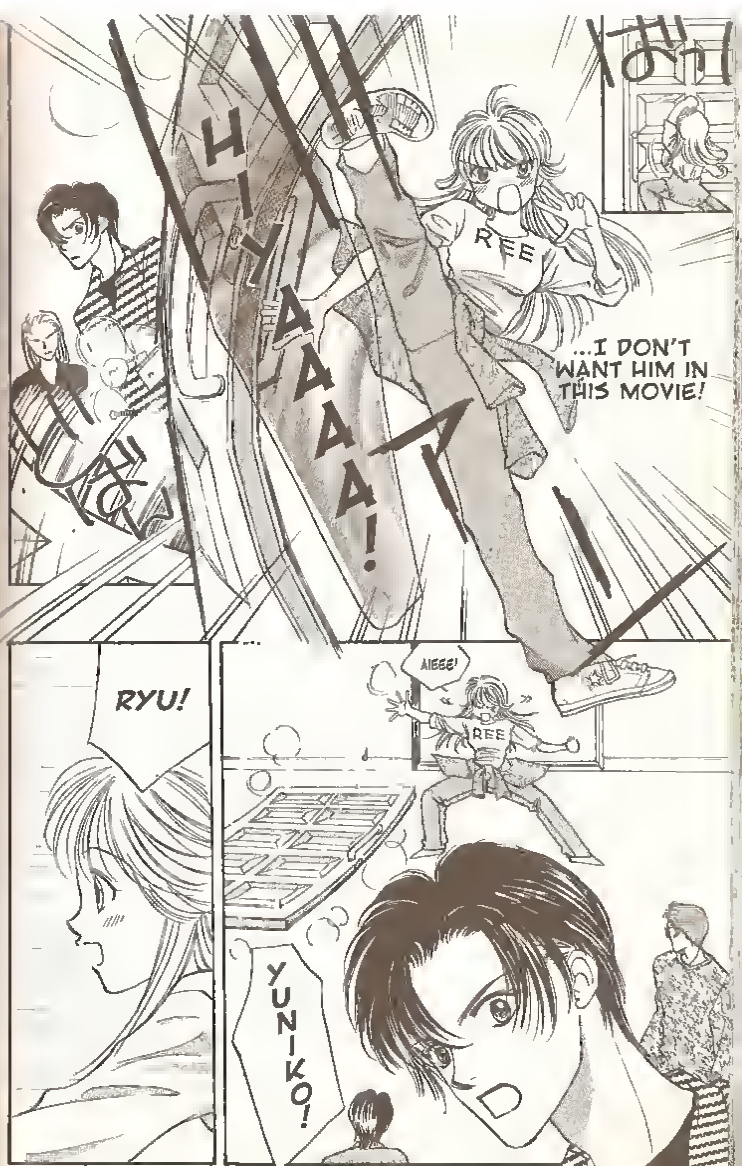

WHAT DID HE SAY?

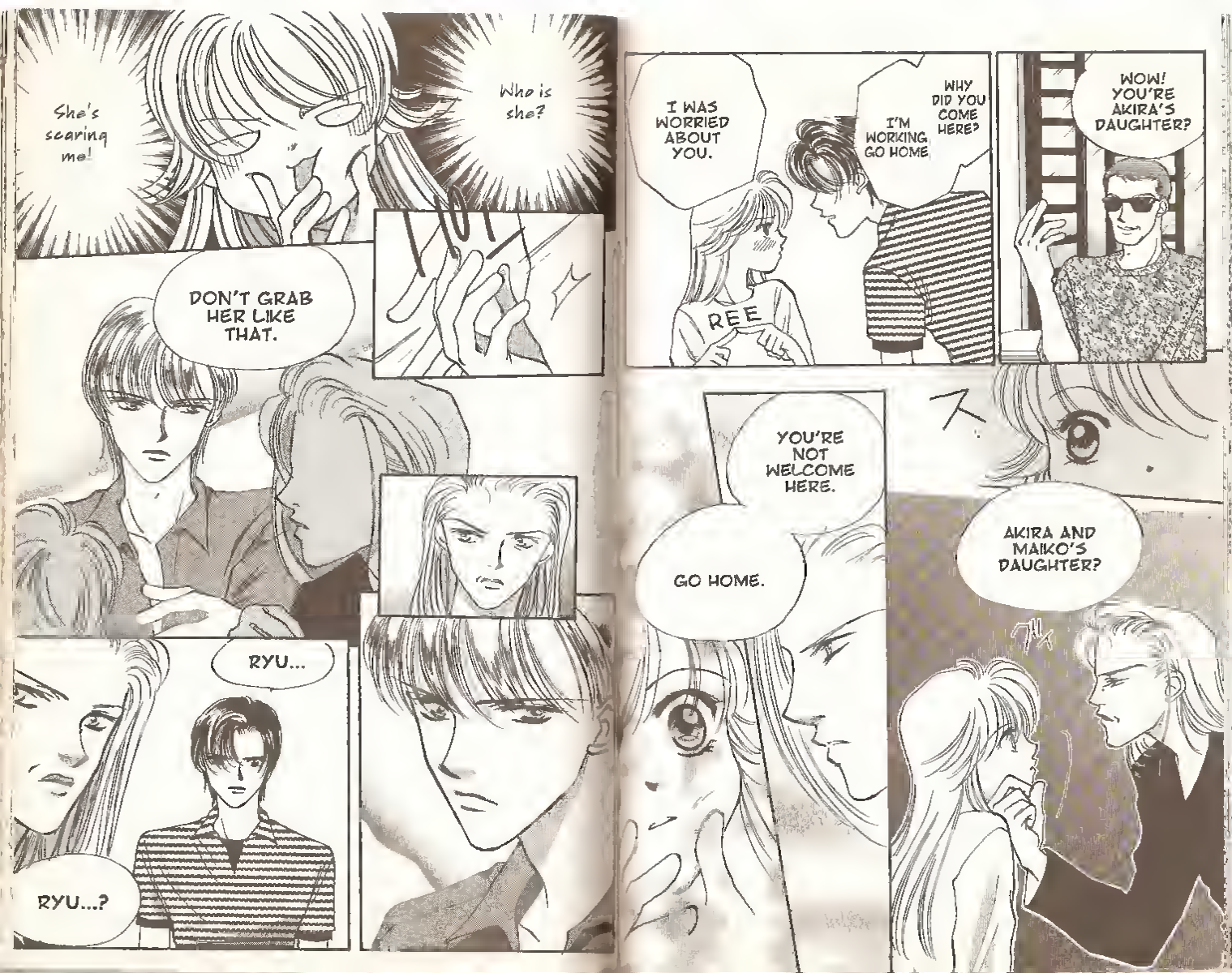

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEED A GUIDE.
I'M FINE, THANK YOU.
WAIT!
GREAT. GOODBYE!
HE'S IN A MEETING WITH GOLDIE IN HER OFFICE.
Phew...
SHE'S A FAMOUS PRODUCER.
GOLDIE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GOING TO BE IN ONE OF HER MOVIES!
KAMUI, WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?
I GOT LOST LAST TIME.
LET'S GO THIS WAY.
ARE YOU GOING TO THE WAREHOUSE?
215
RYU #2!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'll find out myself!

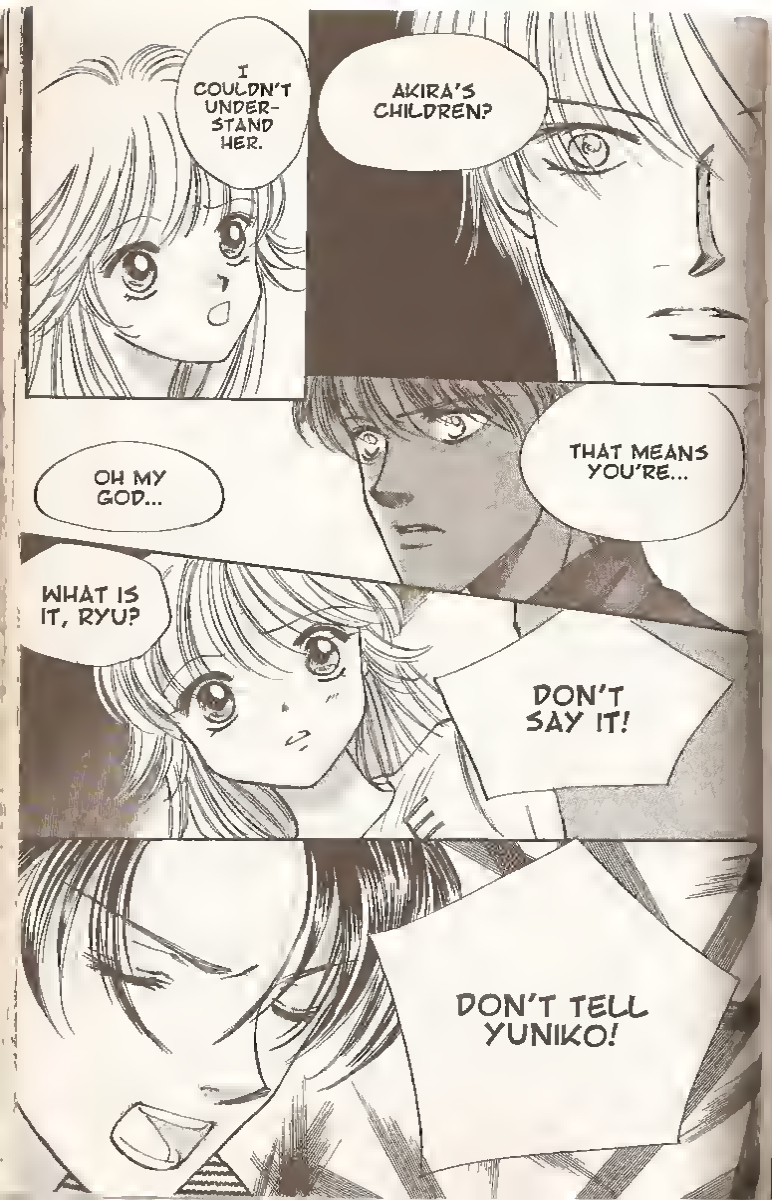

HE'S IN A MEETING WITH GOLDIE.
WHAT? ALONE?
IN THIS OFFICE?
WHERE'S RYU?
WHAT'S UP?
REE
HE'S WITH RYU
I know this job is important, but if he has to sleep his way to the top...
REE
NOOO!
REE
YUNIKO, STOP!
EXCUSE ME!
YOU CAN'T GO INSIDE UNTIL THEY'RE DONE!
AH...

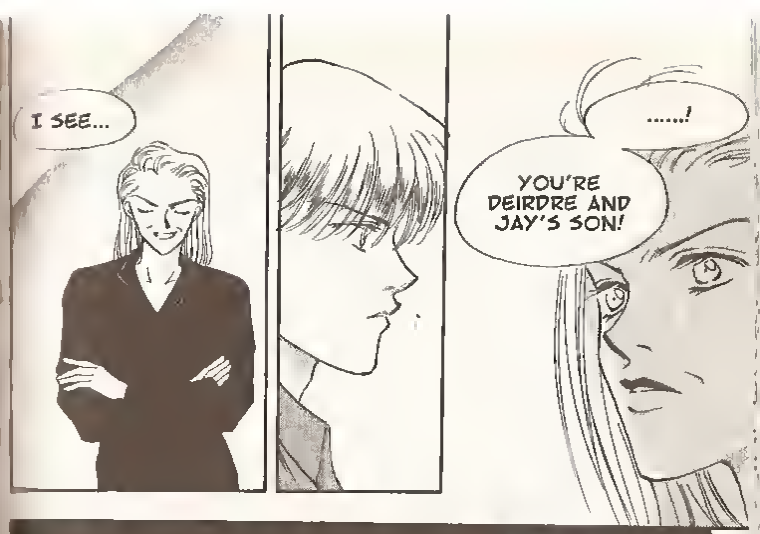

SHE'S PRODUCED MOST OF THE BLOCKBUSTERS FILMED IN THESE STUDIOS.
SHE'S FAMOUS?
a producer?
I can't understand everything he's saying, but I'm sure she's a producer.
Maybe the producer is...
SHOW ME JUST HOW MUCH YOU WANT THIS PART!
...trying to seduce him!
I'M SORRY, YUNIKO!
BOB!
YUNIKO?
REE

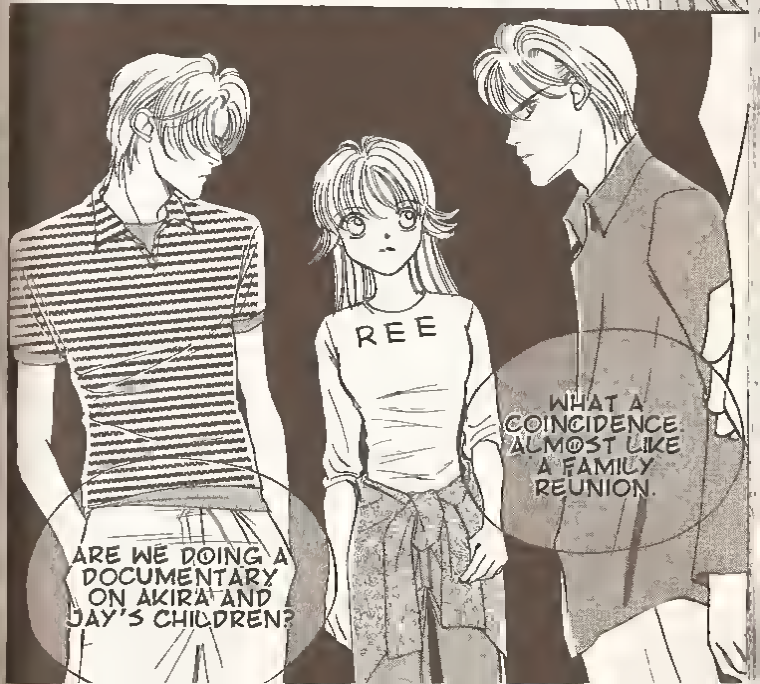

WHO IS SHE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YUNIKO?
HUH? THEY HAVE THEIR CLOTHES ON!
DID SHE SPILL THE COFFEE?!
HURRY! THE PAPERS ARE GETTING SOAKED.
SHE'S AKIRA NANAE AND MAIKO SAKURA'S DAUGHTER.
GOLDIE, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS YUNIKO SAKURABA.
REE


HIYAAAAA!
...I DON'T WANT HIM IN THIS MOVIE!
REE
RYU!
AIEEE!
YUNIKO!

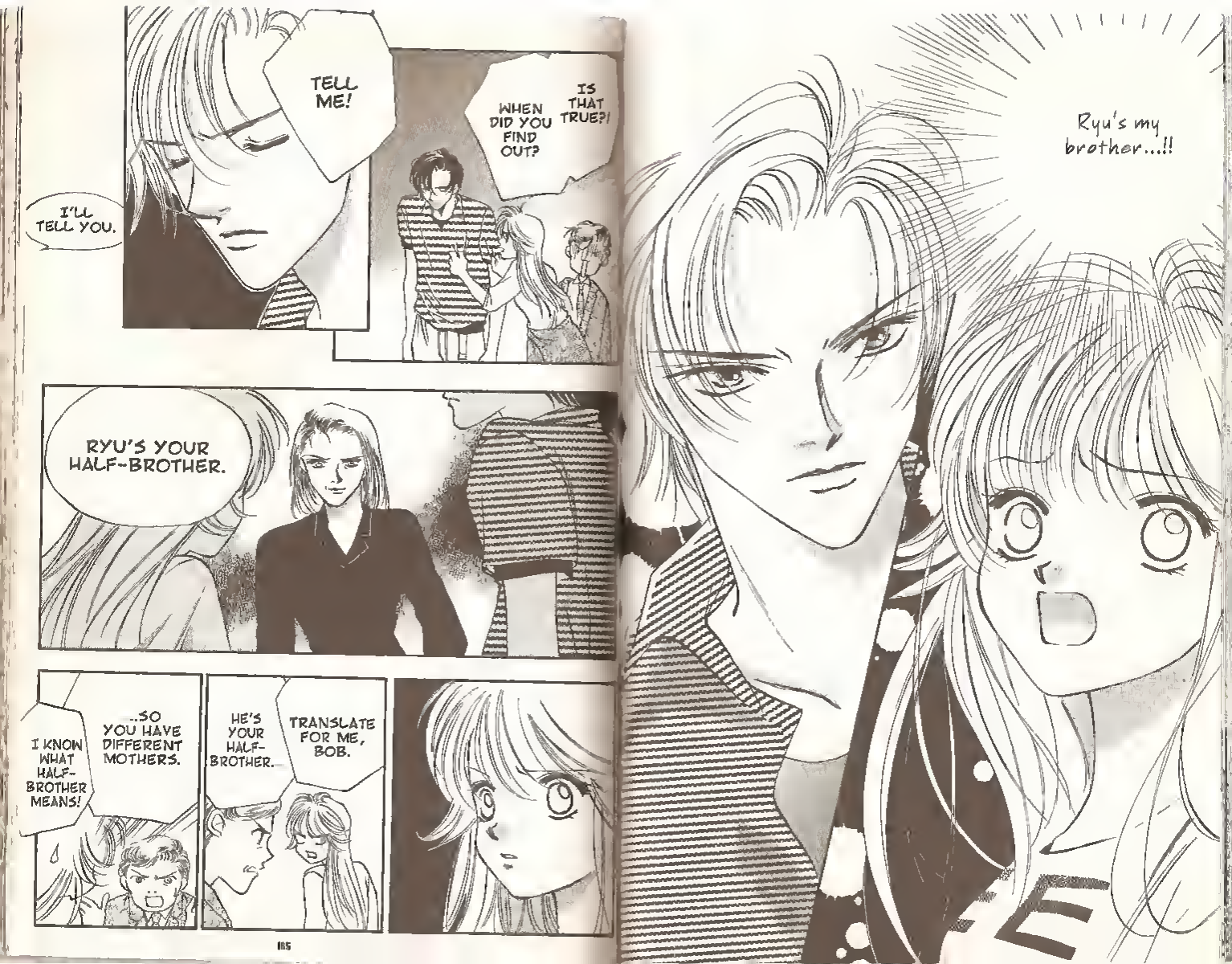

She's scaring me!
Who is she?
DON'T GRAB HER LIKE THAT.
RYU...
RYU...?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I'M WORKING. GO HOME.
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
REE
WOW! YOU'RE AKIRA'S DAUGHTER?
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE.
GO HOME.
AKIRA AND MAIKO'S DAUGHTER?

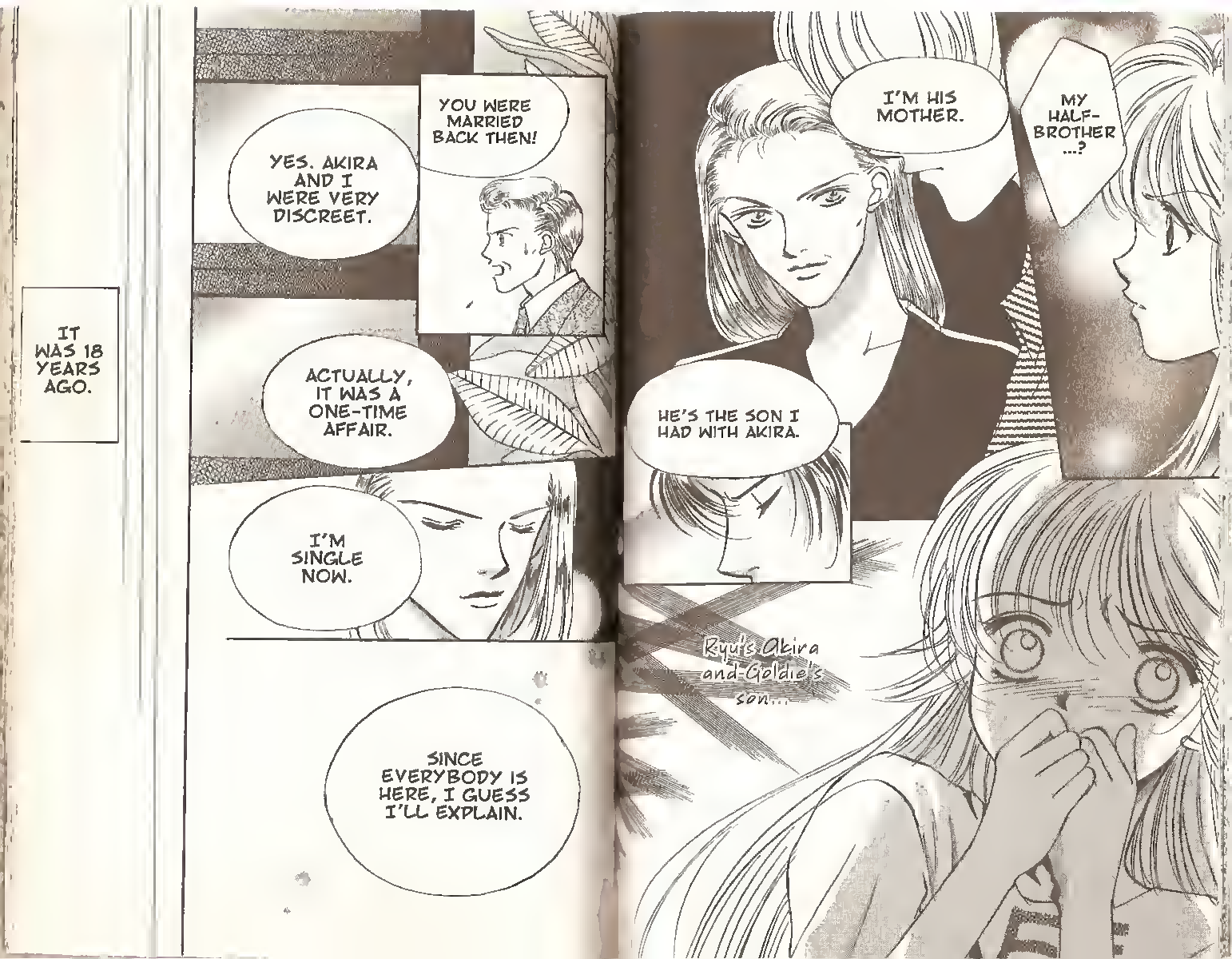

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HER.
AKIRA'S CHILDREN?
OH MY GOD...
THAT MEANS YOU'RE...
WHAT IS IT, RYU?
DON'T SAY IT!
DON'T TELL YUNIKO!


I SEE...
.....!
YOU'RE DEIRDRE AND JAY'S SON!

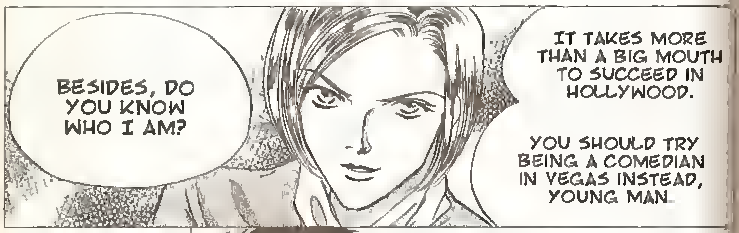

REE
ARE WE DOING A DOCUMENTARY ON AKIRA AND JAY'S CHILDREN?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. ALMOST LIKE A FAMILY REUNION.

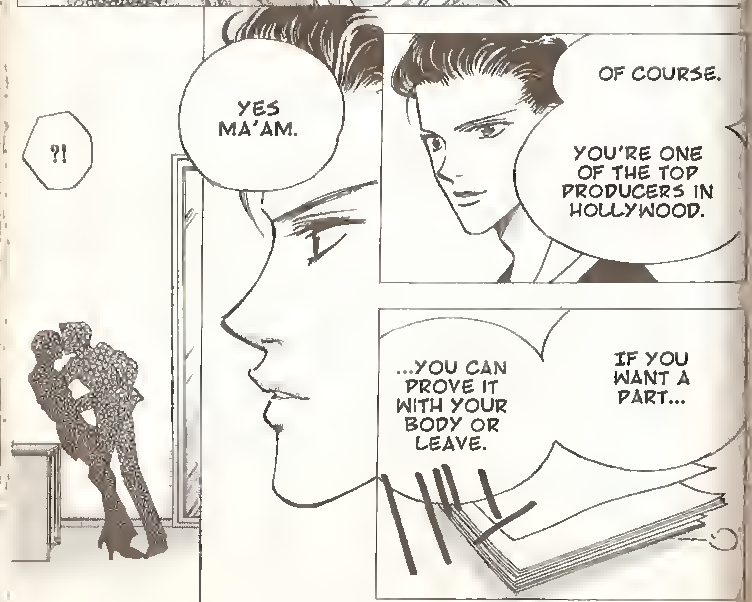
!!
YOU'RE YUNIKO'S BROTHER!!
YOU'RE AKIRA NANAE'S SON?!
Akira Nanae's son...

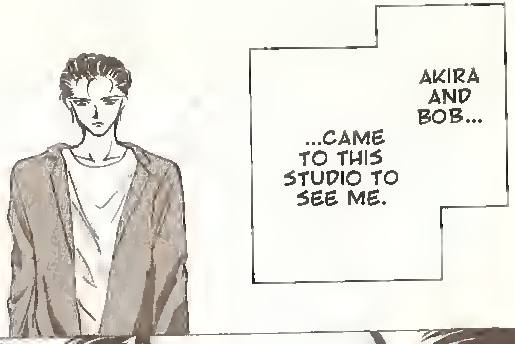

TELL ME!
I'LL TELL YOU.
WHEN DID YOU FIND OUT?
IS THAT TRUE?!
RYU'S YOUR HALF-BROTHER.
I KNOW WHAT HALF-BROTHER MEANS!
..SO YOU HAVE DIFFERENT MOTHERS.
HE'S YOUR HALF-BROTHER.
TRANSLATE FOR ME, BOB.
Ryu's my brother...!!

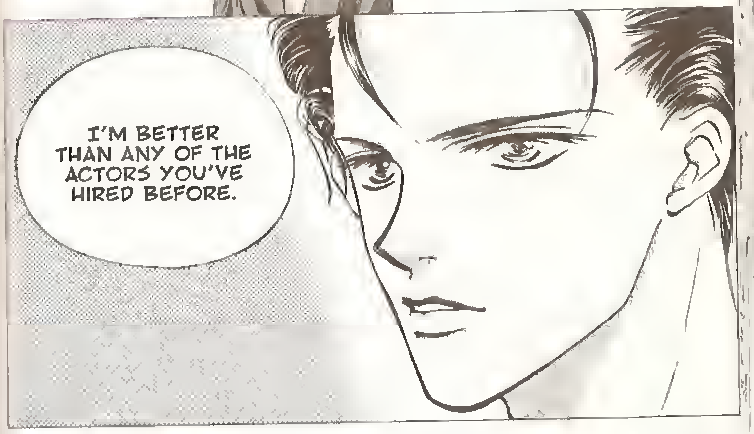

IT WAS 18 YEARS AGO.
YOU WERE MARRIED BACK THEN!
YES. AKIRA AND I WERE VERY DISCREET.
ACTUALLY, IT WAS A ONE-TIME AFFAIR.
I'M SINGLE NOW.
SINCE EVERYBODY IS HERE, I GUESS I'LL EXPLAIN.
I'M HIS MOTHER.
MY HALF-BROTHER ...?
HE'S THE SON I HAD WITH AKIRA.
Ryu's Akira and Goldie's son...

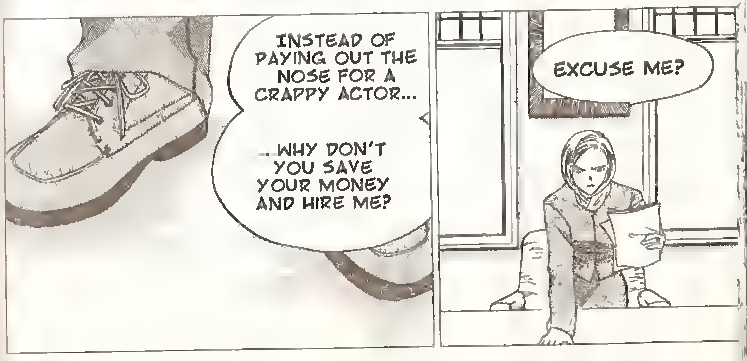
I THOUGHT HE WAS AN IDIOT.

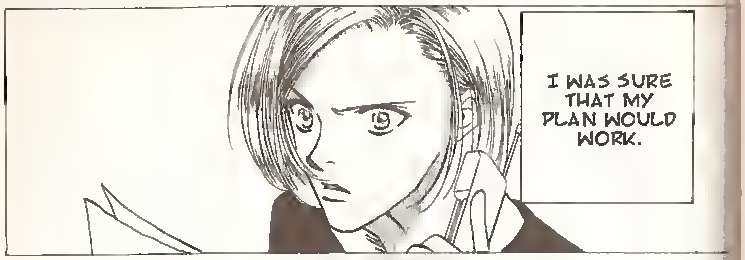

BESIDES, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
IT TAKES MORE THAN A BIG MOUTH TO SUCCEED IN HOLLYWOOD.
YOU SHOULD TRY BEING A COMEDIAN IN VEGAS INSTEAD, YOUNG MAN.

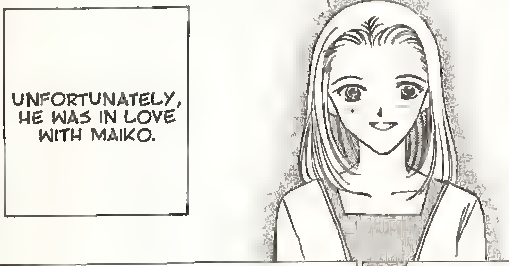

?!
YES MA'AM.
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE TOP PRODUCERS IN HOLLYWOOD.
...YOU CAN PROVE IT WITH YOUR BODY OR LEAVE.
IF YOU WANT A PART...

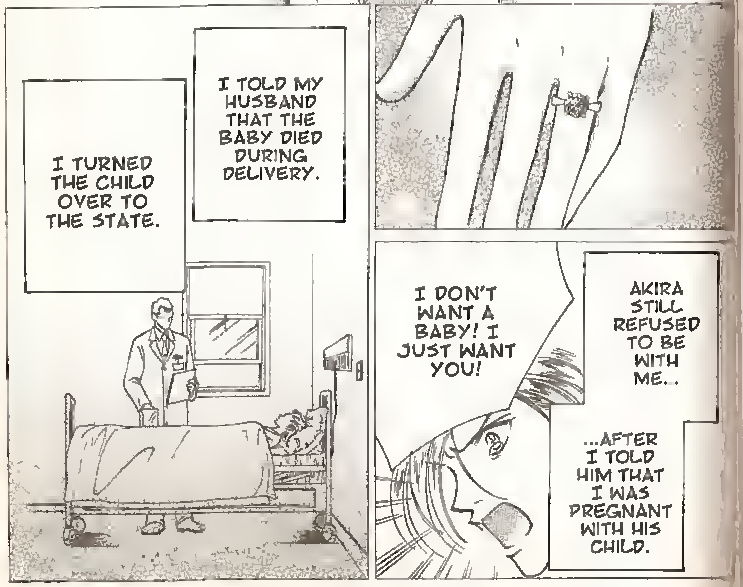

AKIRA AND BOB...
...CAME TO THIS STUDIO TO SEE ME.

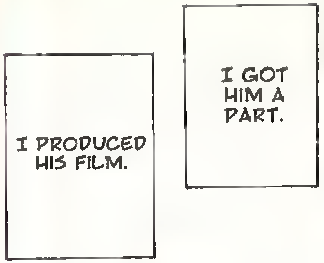

I'M BETTER THAN ANY OF THE ACTORS YOU'VE HIRED BEFORE.

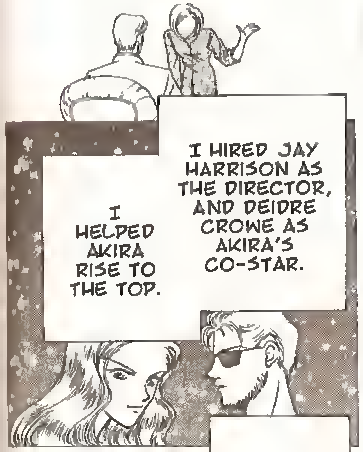

INSTEAD OF PAYING OUT THE NOSE FOR A CRAPPY ACTOR...
...WHY DON'T YOU SAVE YOUR MONEY AND HIRE ME?
EXCUSE ME?

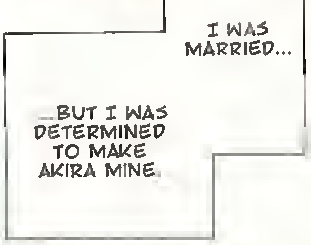

I WAS SURE THAT MY PLAN WOULD WORK.

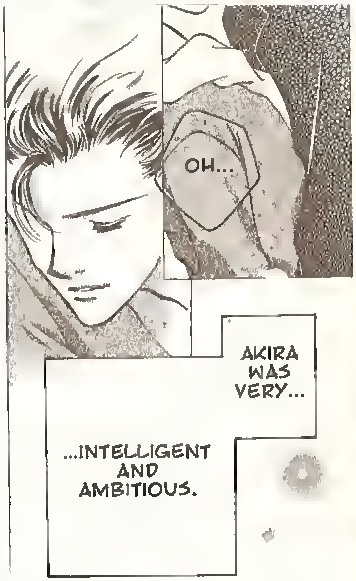

UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS IN LOVE WITH MAIKO.

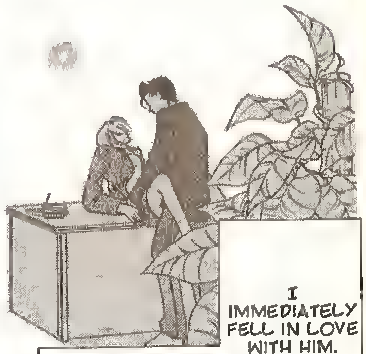

I TURNED THE CHILD OVER TO THE STATE.
I TOLD MY HUSBAND THAT THE BABY DIED DURING DELIVERY.
I DON'T WANT A BABY! I JUST WANT YOU!
AKIRA STILL REFUSED TO BE WITH ME..
...AFTER I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS PREGNANT WITH HIS CHILD.


I PRODUCED HIS FILM.
I GOT HIM A PART.

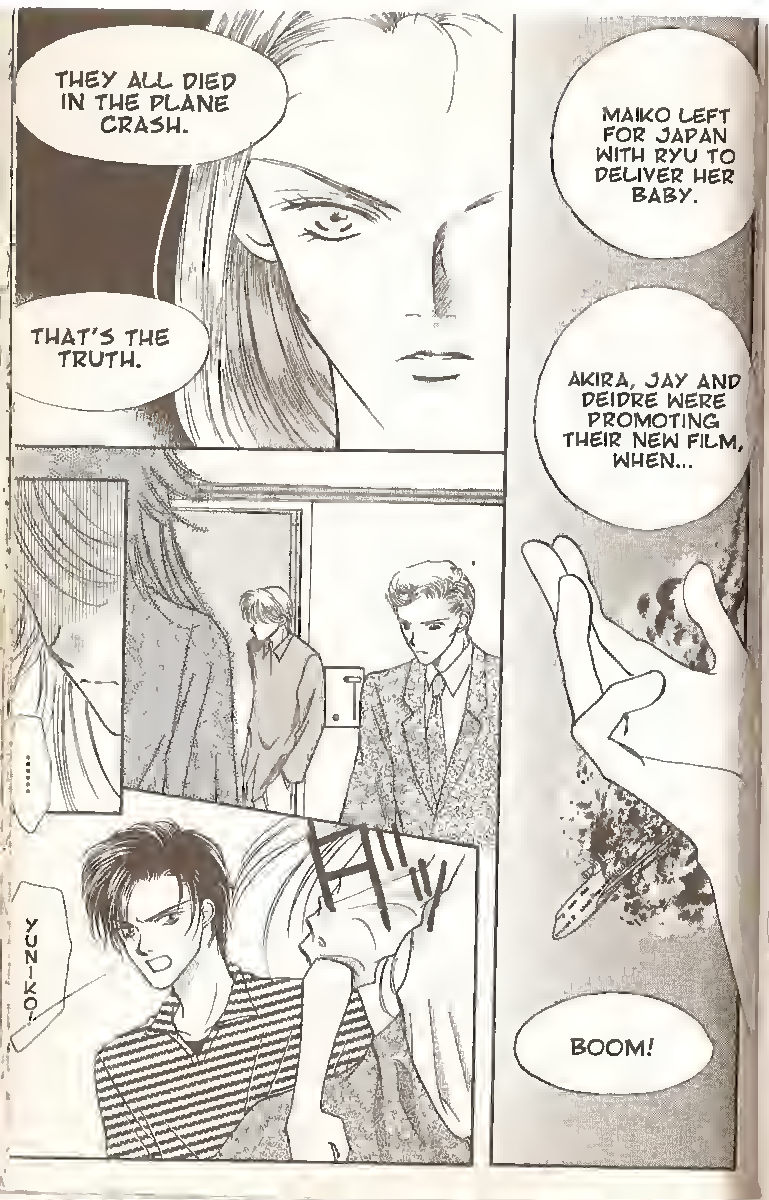

I HELPED AKIRA RISE TO THE TOP.
I HIRED JAY HARRISON AS THE DIRECTOR, AND DEIDRE CROWE AS AKIRA'S CO-STAR.

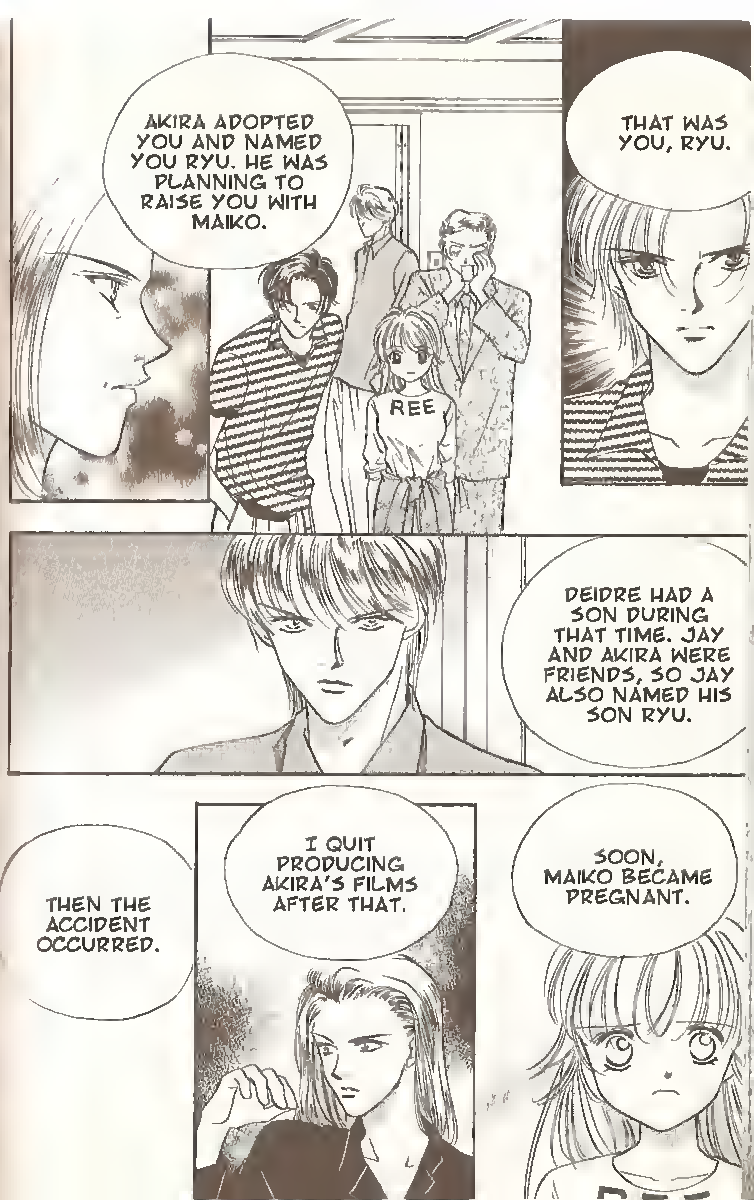

I WAS MARRIED...
...BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE AKIRA MINE.

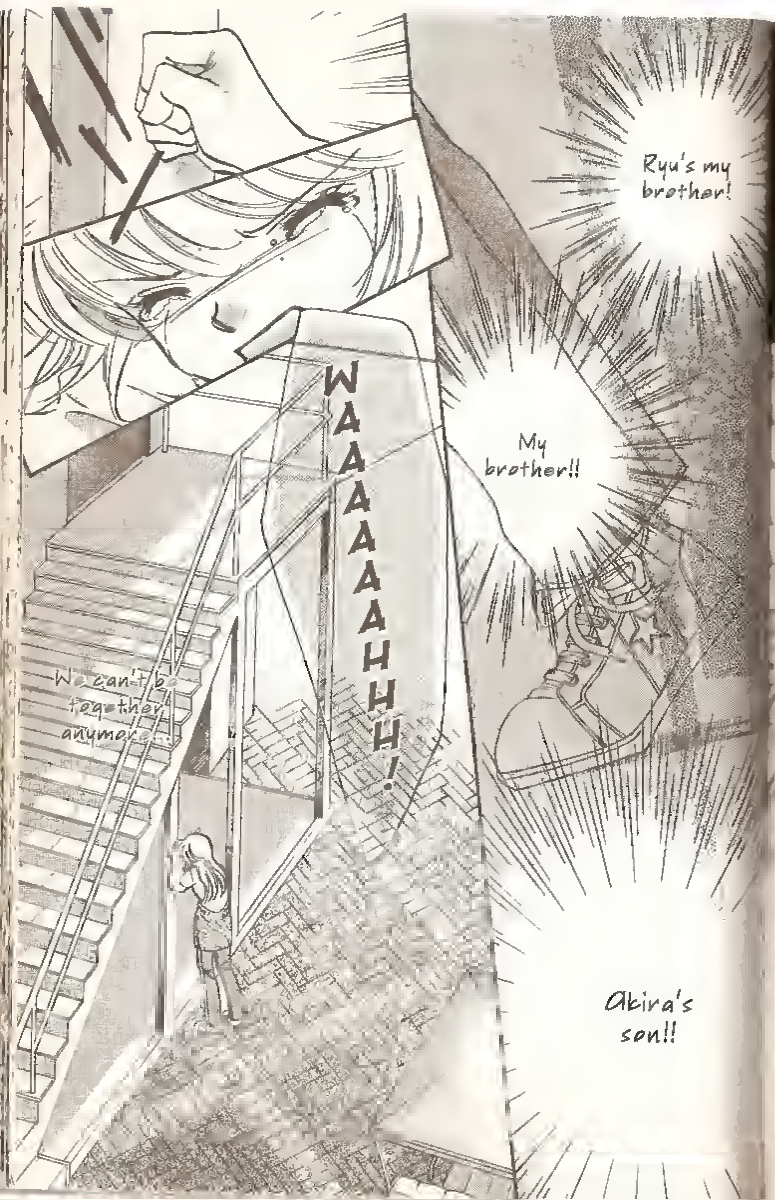

OH...
AKIRA WAS VERY...
...INTELLIGENT AND AMBITIOUS.

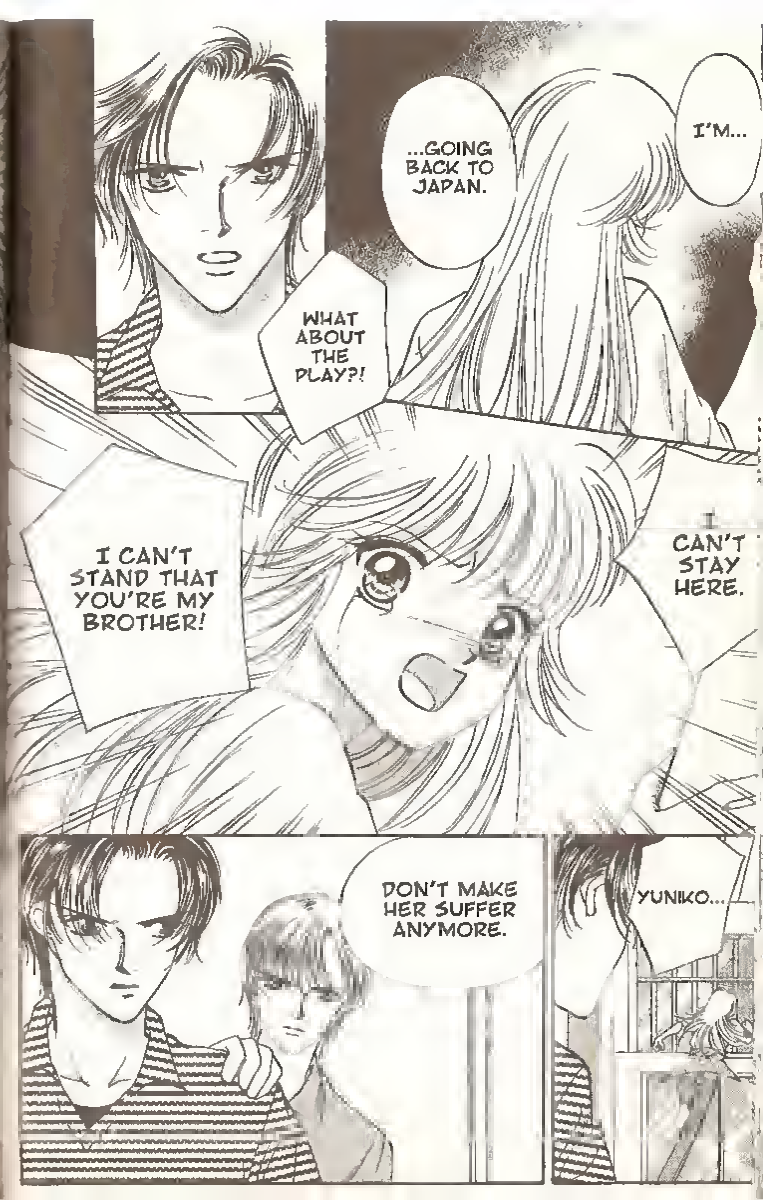

I IMMEDIATELY FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM.

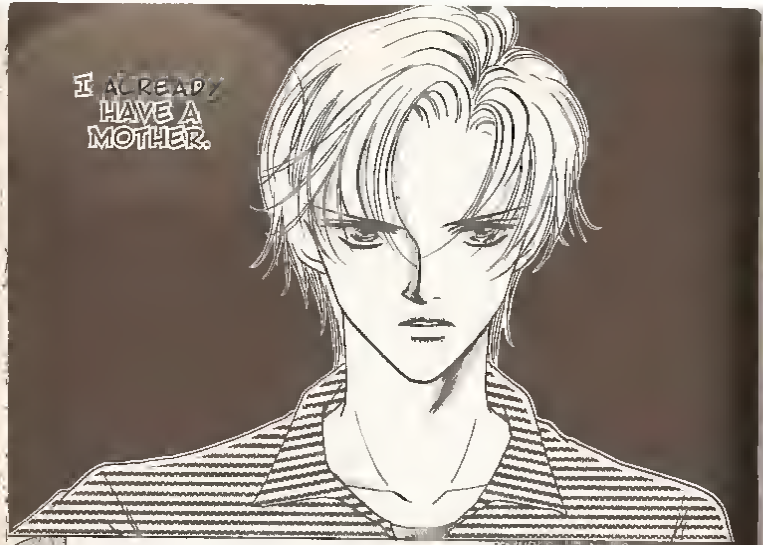
I BECAME PREGNANT WITH HIS CHILD.

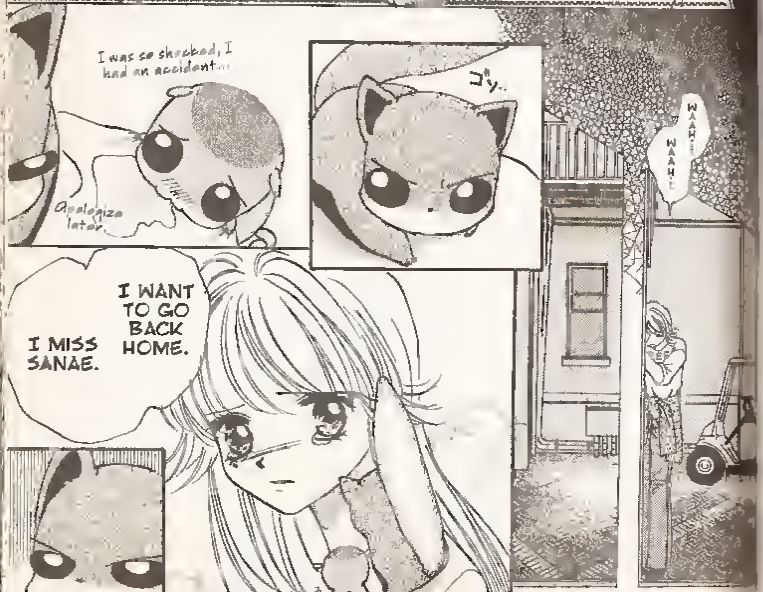

THEY ALL DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH.
THAT'S THE TRUTH.
.....
YUNIKO.
MAIKO LEFT FOR JAPAN WITH RYU TO DELIVER HER BABY.
AKIRA, JAY AND DEIDRE WERE PROMOTING THEIR NEW FILM, WHEN...
BOOM!

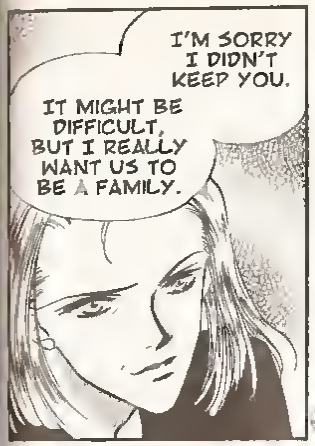

AKIRA ADOPTED YOU AND NAMED YOU RYU. HE WAS PLANNING TO RAISE YOU WITH MAIKO.
THAT WAS YOU, RYU.
REE
DEIDRE HAD A SON DURING THAT TIME. JAY AND AKIRA WERE FRIENDS, SO JAY ALSO NAMED HIS SON RYU.
THEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.
I QUIT PRODUCING AKIRA'S FILMS AFTER THAT.
SOON, MAIKO BECAME PREGNANT.

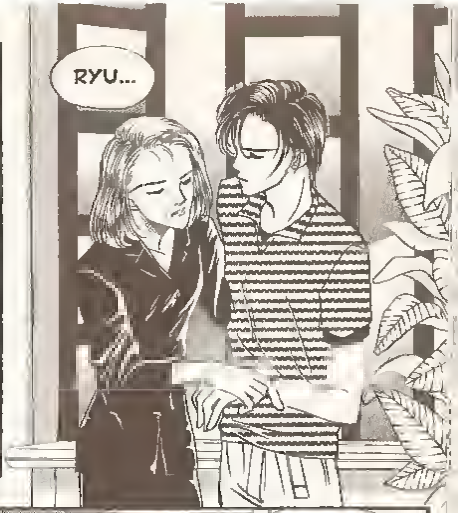

Ryu's my brother!
My brother!!
Akira's son!!
WAAAAAAAHHH!
We can't be together anymore.


I'M...
...GOING BACK TO JAPAN.
WHAT ABOUT THE PLAY?!
I CAN'T STAND THAT YOU'RE MY BROTHER!
I CAN'T STAY HERE.
DON'T MAKE HER SUFFER ANYMORE.
YUNIKO...

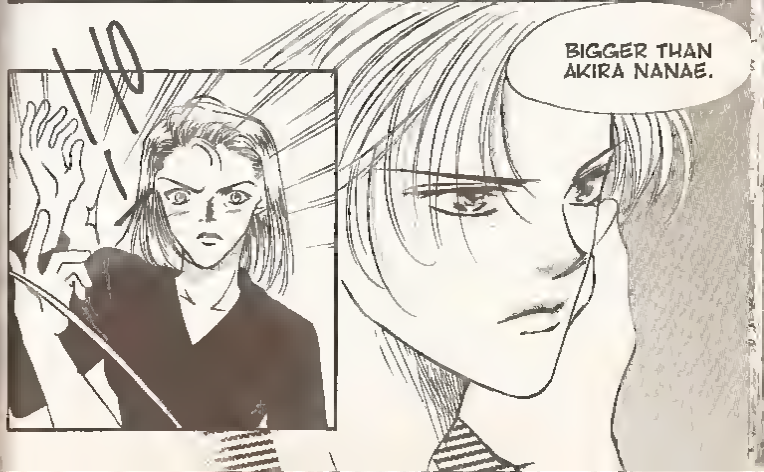

I ALREADY HAVE A MOTHER.

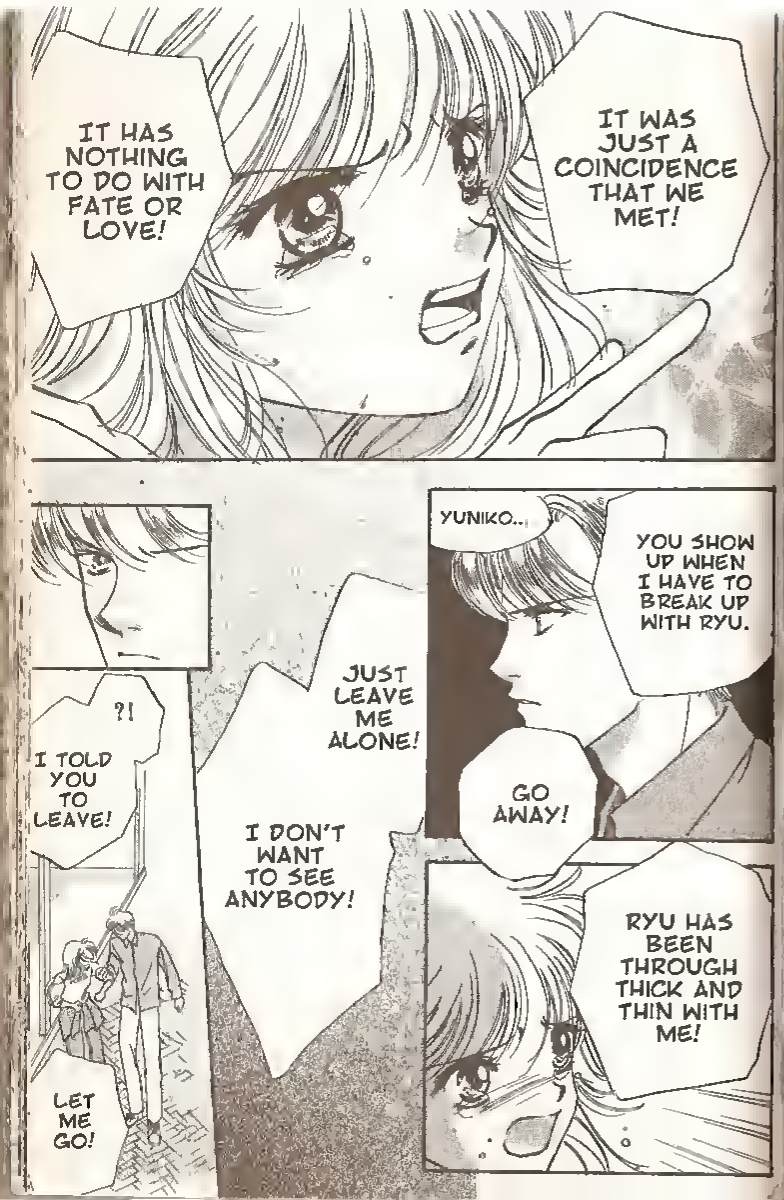

I was so shocked, I had an accident...
Apologize later.
コゾ..
WAAH!
WAAH!
I MISS SANAE.
I WANT TO GO BACK HOME.

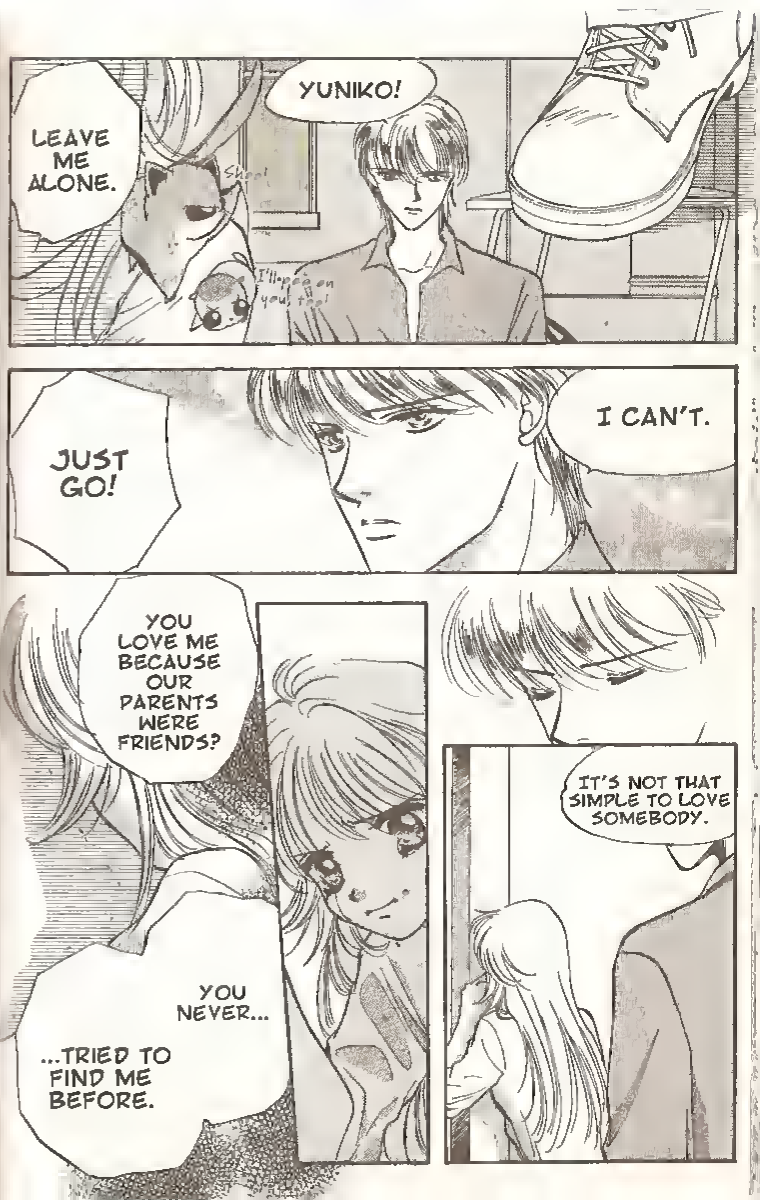

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T KEEP YOU.
IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, BUT I REALLY WANT US TO BE A FAMILY.

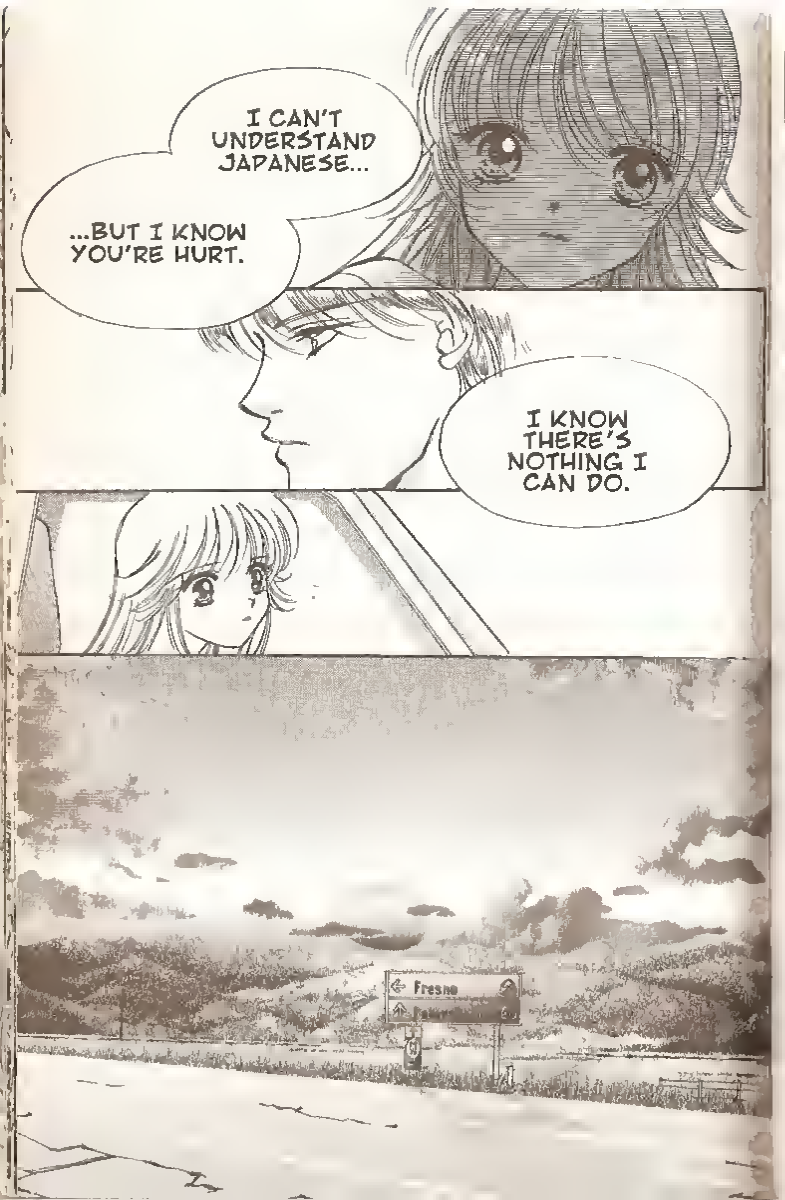

RYU...

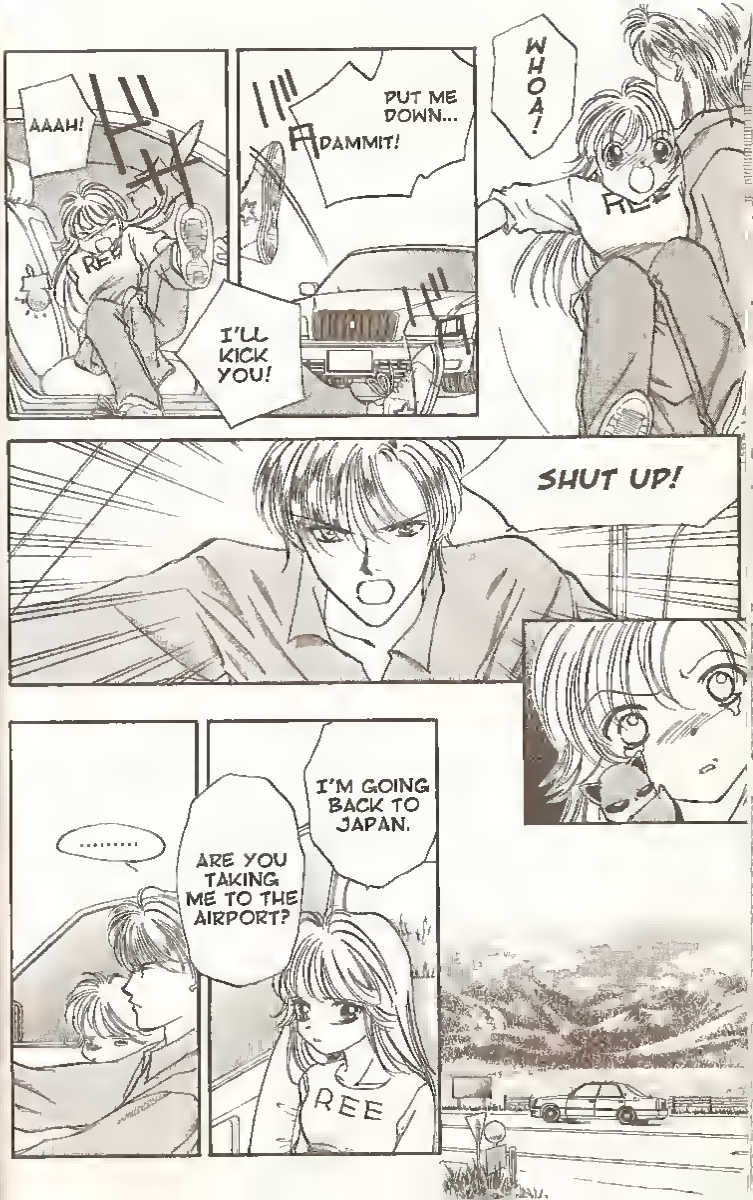
I CAN MAKE YOU THE BIGGEST STAR IN HOLLYWOOD.
FORGET ABOUT THAT GIRL AND COME LIVE WITH ME.

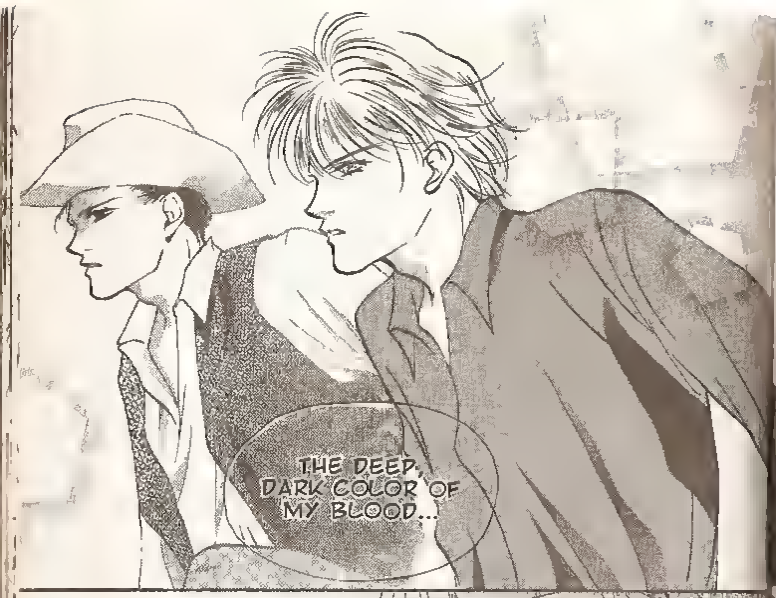

BIGGER THAN AKIRA NANAE.

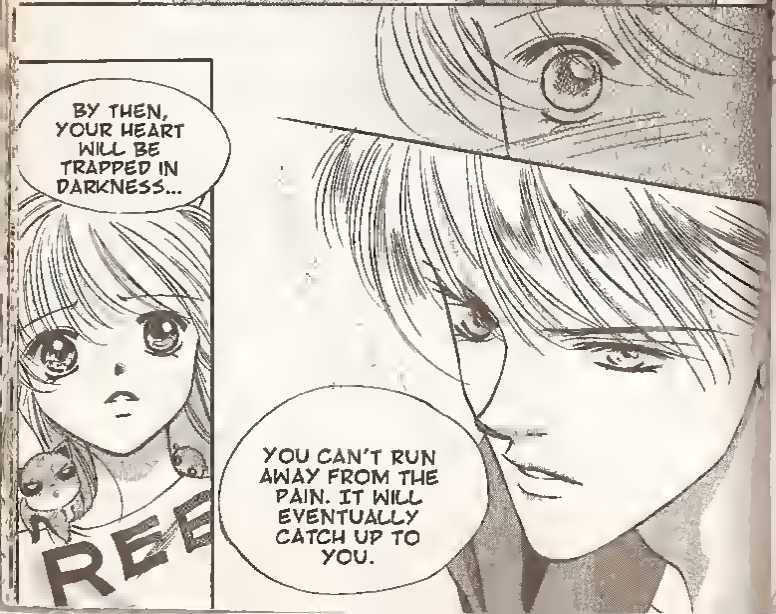

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FATE OR LOVE!
IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT WE MET!
YUNIKO...
YOU SHOW UP WHEN I HAVE TO BREAK UP WITH RYU.
GO AWAY!
?!
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYBODY!
RYU HAS BEEN THROUGH THICK AND THIN WITH ME!
LET ME GO!

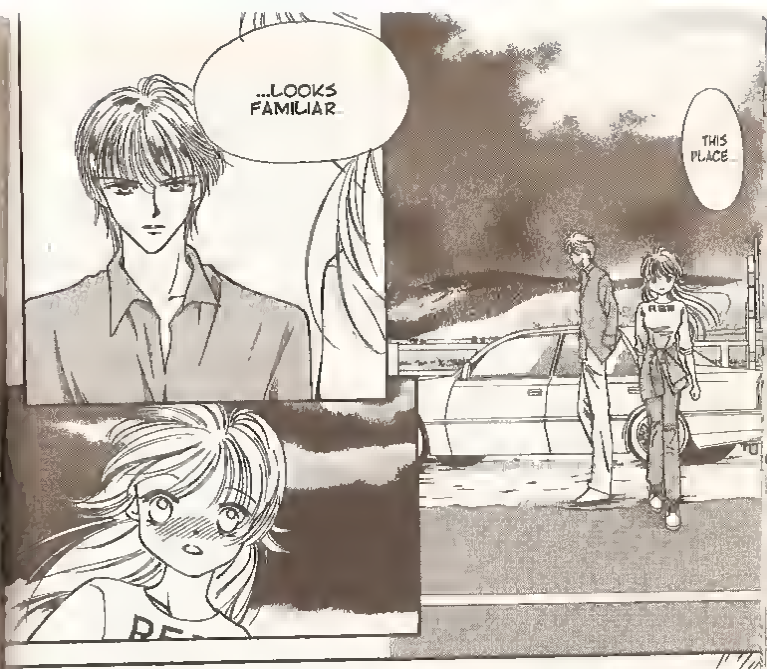

YUNIKO!
LEAVE ME ALONE.
I'll open on your face!
I CAN'T.
JUST GO!
YOU LOVE ME BECAUSE OUR PARENTS WERE FRIENDS?
YOU NEVER...
...TRIED TO FIND ME BEFORE.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE TO LOVE SOMEBODY.

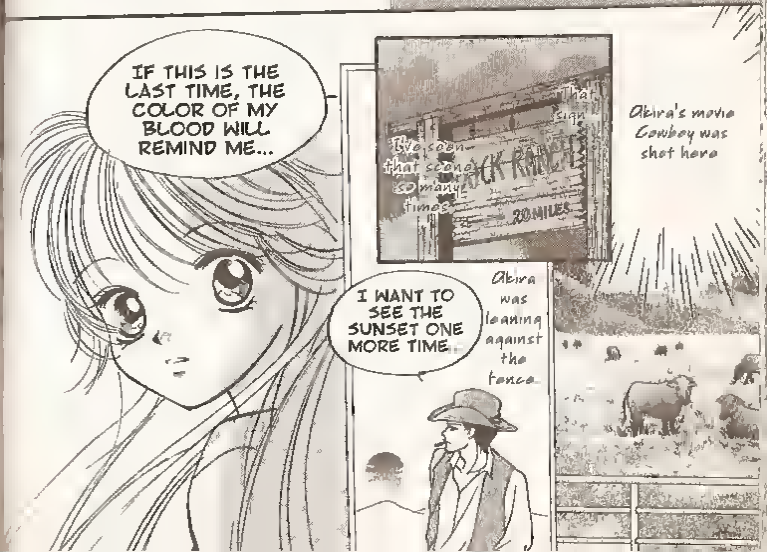

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND JAPANESE...
...BUT I KNOW YOU'RE HURT.
I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
Fresno


AAAH!
PUT ME DOWN...
DAMMIT!
I'LL KICK YOU!
WHOA!
SHUT UP!
I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN.
ARE YOU TAKING ME TO THE AIRPORT?
.....
REE

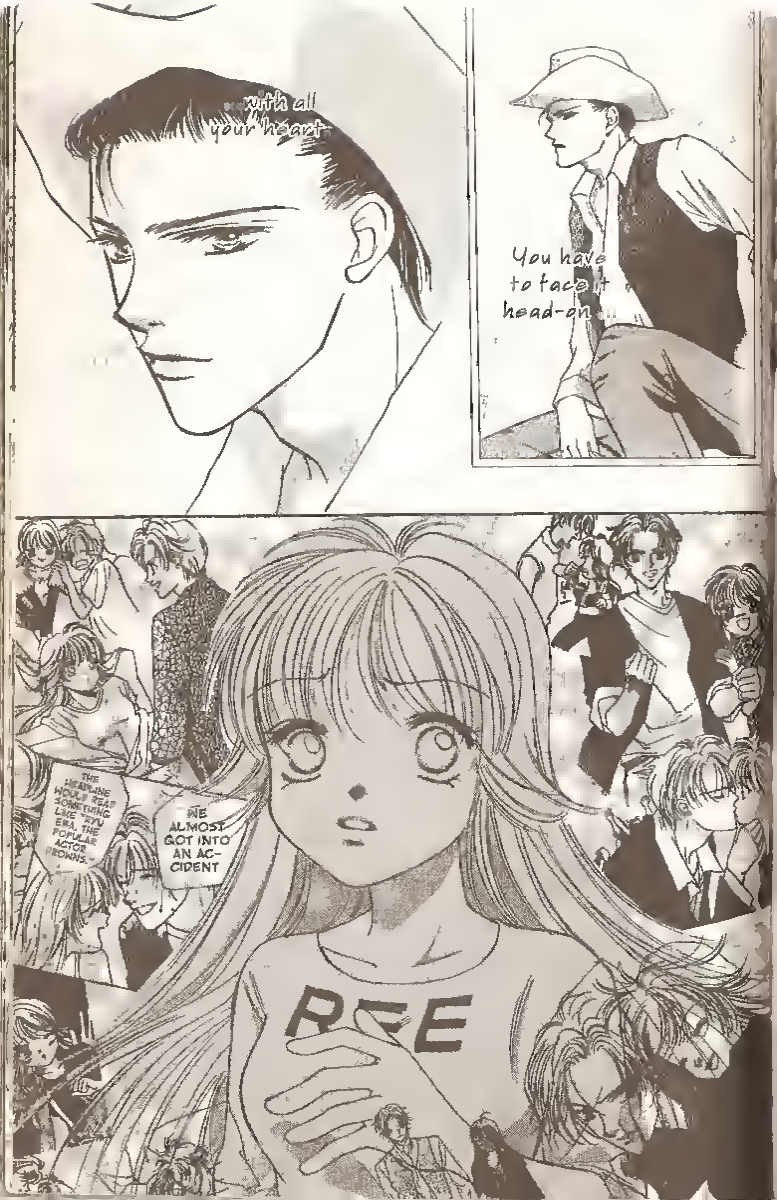

THE DEEP, DARK COLOR OF MY BLOOD...

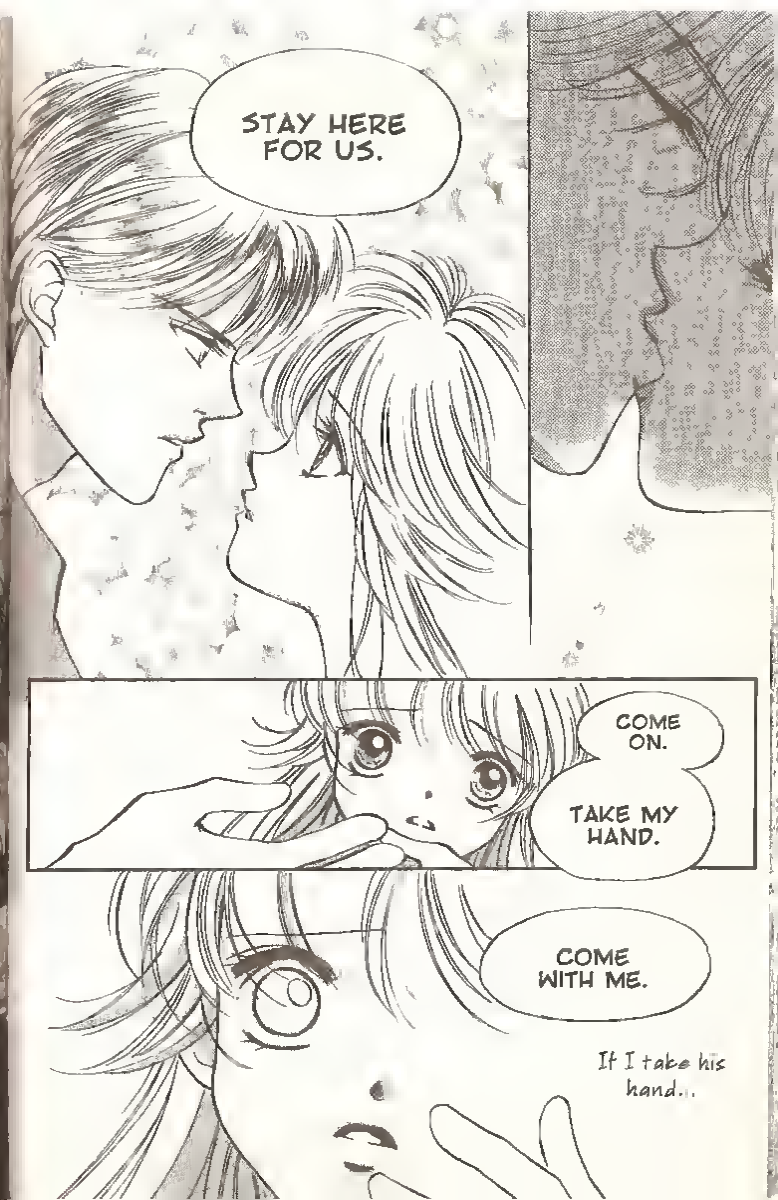

BY THEN, YOUR HEART WILL BE TRAPPED IN DARKNESS...
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM THE PAIN. IT WILL EVENTUALLY CATCH UP TO YOU.


...LOOKS FAMILIAR...
THIS PLACE...


IF THIS IS THE LAST TIME, THE COLOR OF MY BLOOD WILL REMIND ME...
I've seen that scene so many times...
That sign...
20 MILES
Akira's movie Cowboy was shot here
I WANT TO SEE THE SUNSET ONE MORE TIME...
Akira was leaning against the fence

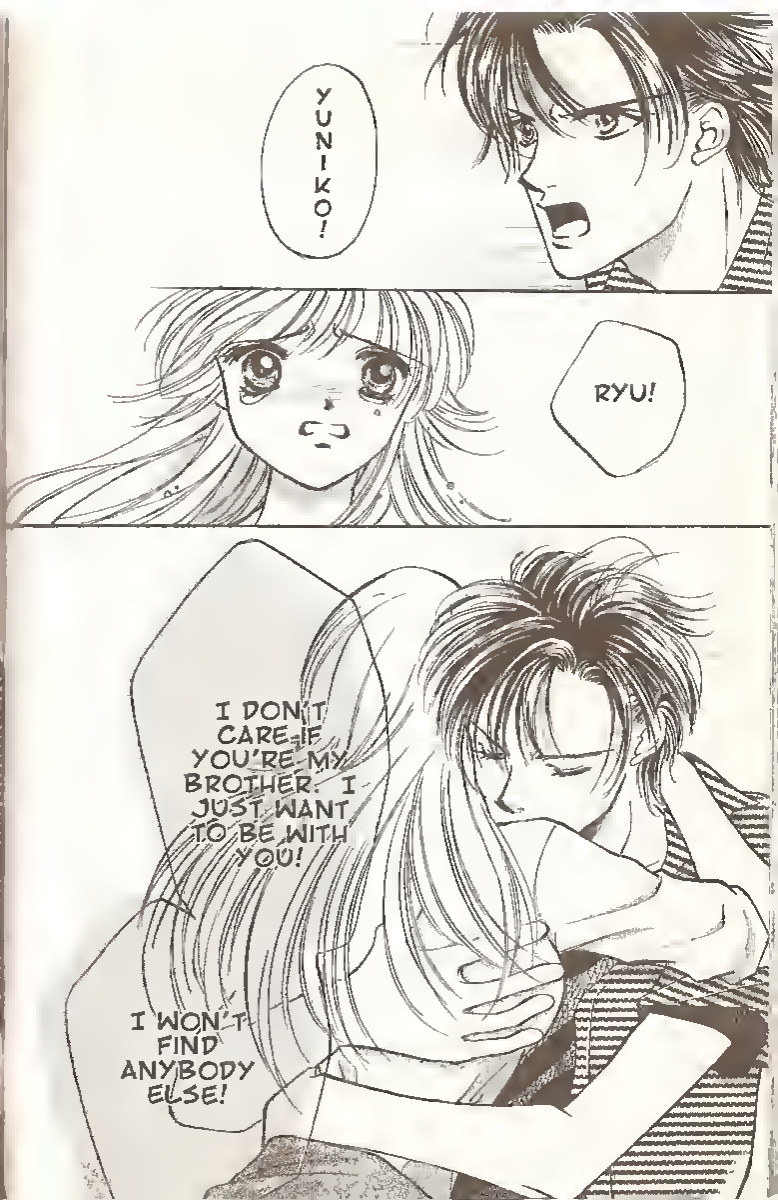
GOING TO JAPAN WON'T MAKE ANYTHING GO AWAY.
PLEASE STAY HERE IN HOLLYWOOD.
I need to face the pain
Does that mean...
...that I have to accept Ryu as my brother?
THAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S LINE.
YOU HAVE TO FACE IT HEAD-ON WITH ALL YOUR HEART.
RYU...

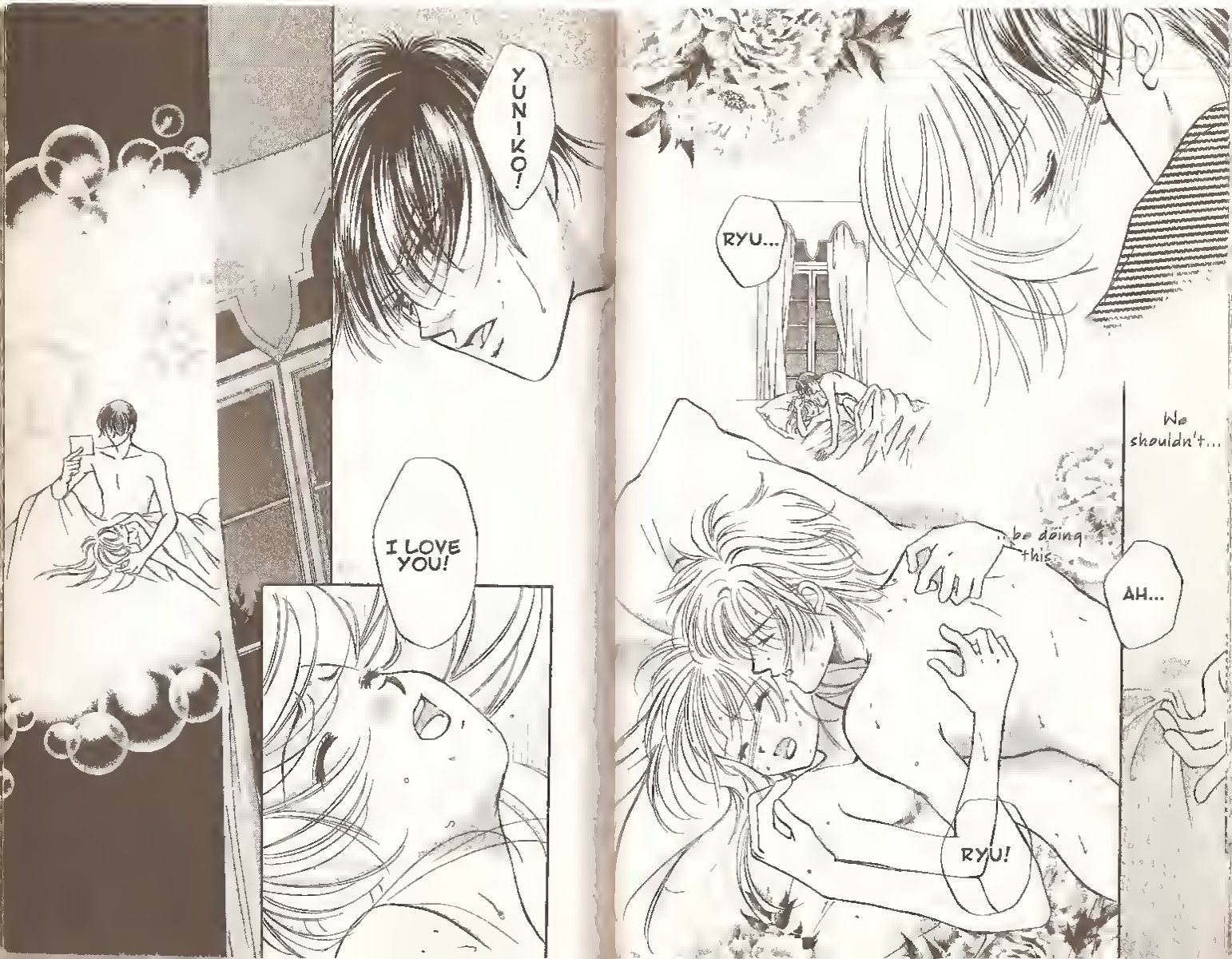

with all your heart
You have to face it head-on...
THE HEROINE MISSES YEAR SOMETHING LIKE YOU, ERA, THE POPULAR ACTOR FROWNS.
HE ALMOST GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT
REE


STAY HERE FOR US.
COME ON.
TAKE MY HAND.
COME WITH ME.
If I take his hand...

I'm going to get through this!

WILL YOU PROMISE...
...THAT YOU WON'T DISAPPEAR?
NO!


YUNIKO!
RYU!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE MY BROTHER. I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU!
I WON'T FIND ANYBODY ELSE!


YUNIKO!
I LOVE YOU!
RYU...
We shouldn't...
...be doing this
AH...
RYU!

I DON'T CARE IF OUR CHANCES ARE MINISCULE!
I THINK...
...GOLDIE MIGHT HAVE A LOT OF AKIRA'S TRICKS.
GOLDIE?!
WHAT'S THE POINT, NOW...?
I WANT TO SEE IF WE CAN RECOVER YOUR MOTHER'S MEMORY!
...BUT WE CAN'T DECIDE OUR FUTURE ON THE WORDS OF A STRANGER, RIGHT?
GOLDIE CLAIMS THAT I'M YOUR HALF-BROTHER...
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 10

RYU...
YUNIKO!!
WE'RE...
...GOING TO HELL FOR THIS.
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET, BUT...
GOLDIE HAS AKIRA'S DOG.
REALLY? BAGEL?
...I SAW THIS DOG INSIDE GOLDIE'S OFFICE.